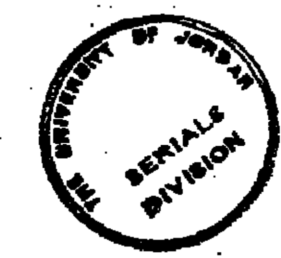
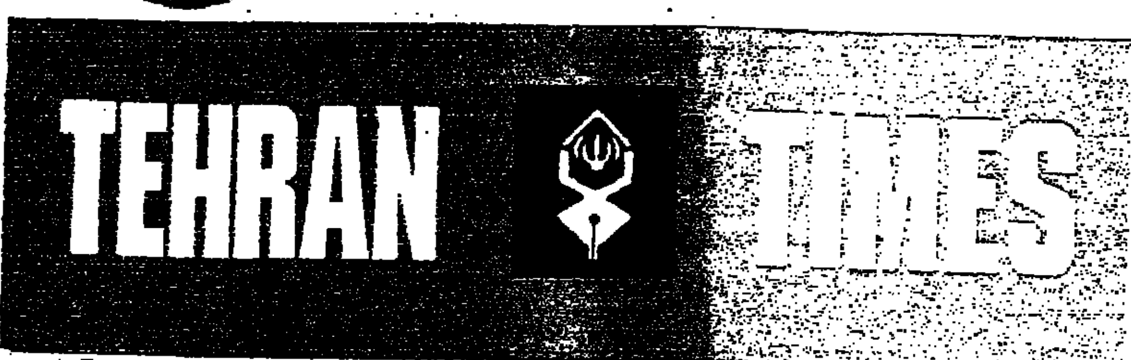


Iran to Send Peace Mission to Taleban Militia

KABUL — Iran is to dispatch a delegation to Afghanistan to ask the Taleban militia to stop shelling Kabul and to discuss drug trafficking in the region, a top Iranian official said here Tuesday.

A team is expected to leave for the Taleban-held city of Herat soon for talks with the group's leadership, in only the second such visit by Iranian officials, Deputy Foreign Minister Alauddin Brujerdi said.

A second delegation may be sent to the Taleban headquarters in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar at a later date, he added. (Contd on Pg. 14)



16 PAGES; PRICE 200 RIALS

VOL. XVIII; No. 96; WEDNESDAY JULY 31, 1996; MORDAD 10, 1375; RABIUL-AWAL 14, 1417

Kharazi: Gingrich's Remarks Highly Irresponsible

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Iran's representative to the UN Kamal Kharazi stressed here Monday night that the biased accusations made by the U.S. politician Newt Gingrich against Iran are clear cases of abusing the sentiments of the relatives of the victims of the TWA plan and the terrorist act of racist groups in Atlanta's Centennial Park.

In an interview with IRNA correspondent here, Kharazi added that Gingrich, the U.S. House speaker, is trying to take advantage of the existing atmosphere of tension in America to distract the public opinion from the present problems. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Commission Proposes EU Law to Block Helms Burton

BRUSSELS — The European Commission on Tuesday proposed an EU-wide regulation that would prevent European companies from complying with controversial U.S. legislation that seeks to penalize them for doing business with Cuba.

The Commission did not, however, put forward proposals for a general tightening of visa or work permit requirements for U.S. businessmen visiting Europe — a step which had been mooted but is seen as too inflammatory by some EU governments.

The regulation, if adopted, would oblige European companies not to cooperate with the U.S. courts. It would also provide a mechanism for recovering damages awarded against them under the recently passed Helms-Burton act through counter-suits in Europe.

The act allows U.S. citizens to sue the American subsidiaries of companies which "traffick" in property expropriated during or since the 1959 revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power.

To be adopted, the blocking regulation requires the unanimous support of all 15 EU governments. It will be discussed by EU foreign ministers in September.

Britain, Italy and The Netherlands already have such legislation on their national statute books. By placing creating a legal obligation not to cooperate with any law suits, the proposed regulation would give European companies the opportunity to plead "double jeopardy" before the U.S. courts.

Counter suits would depend on U.S. companies which initiate actions under the legislation having assets in Europe.

President Bill Clinton earlier this month delayed the right to file lawsuits under Helms Burton for six months in response to pressure from the EU and the U.S.' other major trading partners.

EU trade commissioner Sir Leon Brittan said Clinton's move had been welcome but that the extraterritorial reach of the legislation remained in place.

"We cannot remain inactive with this Sword of Damocles hanging over European companies and individuals."

While the EU has much less at stake in Cuba than Canada and Mexico, its economic interests face a much greater threat from pending U.S. legislation of a similar nature on Iran and Libya.

(Contd on Pg.14)

LEADER:

Paymasters of Terrorism Should Suffer From it

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, here Tuesday said that it is not a matter of surprise that the paymasters of international terrorism now suffer from what they themselves have encouraged.

The United States, which has long supported terrorism, is beginning to suffer from it. This seed, planted by the U.S. is beginning to grow on its soil and it is just the beginning, Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader added, fear of terrorist acts is now gripping the United States, which welcomed with open arms the perpetrators of terrorist acts committed in Iran.

Addressing a group of managers and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), he further touched on the smear propaganda campaign of the enemies against Iran, saying no other country except Iran has been a target of the organized aggression of the Zionist entity and the Western Zionist-led media.

Through their organized propaganda campaign against Iran, the enemies are for distorting either the world's public opinion or that of the Iranians, the Leader added.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the indispensable role of the IRIB in confronting the smear propaganda campaign of Western media.

(Contd on Pg.14)



Kinkel Rejects U.S. Calls For Isolating Iran

BONN — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on Tuesday rejected U.S. calls to isolate Iran, saying Europe would continue to cultivate a "critical dialogue" with Tehran.

Kinkel, who was in Paris for a one-day conference on terrorism with other foreign and security ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) countries plus Russia, told German radio and television that moves to isolate Iran would "not curb" terrorism.

Europeans had in this case "a slightly different conception from the United States," he told Deutschland Radio Berlin and TV channel ZDF.

The conference was to consider a 25-point package of concrete measures aimed at cracking down on international terrorism.

President Bill Clinton has called on the international community to impose tough sanctions on all the countries which support or commit acts of terrorism, a call which has so far met with opposition from European countries.

"I do not think that by ceasing to dialogue, by isolating Iran, we will get better results in the inter- (Contd on Pg.14)

Military Option Against Israel a Possibility

DAMASCUS — Syria's army chief on Tuesday said Damascus had not ruled out military force against Israel in order to win back its rights.

"Our rights are legitimate and we will work for peace using every possible legitimate means, especially diplomatic. But if we are foiled then every other option is a possibility," Syrian Army Chief of Staff General Hekmat Shehabi told the ruling party's daily *Al-Baath*.

"Over the past few decades the military option was the only means available to Syria to combat Israeli aggression against Arab land and in the occupied territories," the general said.

He added that "Syria would make no concession concerning the need for a total Israeli retreat to the lines of June 4, 1967," a reference to the Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 six-day war and later annexed.

Shehabi became the first Syrian chief of staff to meet his Israeli (Contd on Pg.14)

Muslims Should Narrow Ideological Gaps Through Logical Arguments



VAEZ-ZADEH

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Secretary General of the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Branches, Ayatollah Mohammad Vaez-Zadeh Khorasani, called on all Muslims, whatever sectarian beliefs they have, to bring up their ideological differences through holding dialogs so that they can arrive at some understanding.

Making the above remark in an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times* on the occasion of the Unity Week, he added that the best way to resolve religious differences and misunderstandings is through holding dialogs.

"Today, Muslims and Christians are discussing the points of divergence between the two religions and trying to bridge over their rifts through logical arguments. That has already led to significant proximity between the viewpoints of Islamic and Christian scholars. Therefore, it is quite clear that Muslims can easily narrow the ideological gaps existing among the various Islamic branches," the ayatollah said.

Khorasani went on by saying (Contd on Pg.14)

Muslim Unity Can Counter Any Enemy Plot

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The glory and dignity of Muslims depend on their unity, the President's Advisor in Muslim Sunni Affairs, Molavi Mohammad Eshaq Madani, told the *Tehran Times*.

Speaking on the eve of Unity Week, he stressed that Islam is a comprehensive religion without hardly any weak points and that the situation Muslims find themselves now stems from nothing but their discord.

"Thanks to God, since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in Iran attempts are being made towards closing the gap of Islamic sects," he said, adding that today the Islamic Republic is using all means available to achieve unity among Muslims either within or without the country.

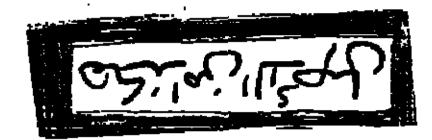


MADANI

Madani said that prior to the Islamic Revolution the enemies of Islam tried their best to sow discord among Muslims.

"Although certain Muslim ulema endeavored to bring unity among Muslim sects their efforts, resources and powers were trivial

(Contd on Pg.14)



TEHRAN TIMES

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Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed at Keyhan

In the Name of Allah

Say: Surely, (as for) me, my Lord has guided me to the right path; (to) a most right religion, the faith of Ibrahim the upright one, and he was not of the polytheists.

(HOLY QORAN) (6:161)

OPINION

Terrorism Should Be Redefined

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on Tuesday rejected U.S. calls to isolate Iran, emphasizing that Europe would continue holding a critical dialogue with Teheran.

Meanwhile, the European Commission (EC) on Tuesday proposed an EU-wide regulation that would prevent European companies from complying with controversial U.S. legislation that seeks to penalize them for doing business with Cuba.

Kinkel's statement--which reflects the viewpoint of all European countries--and the EC proposal indicate that the U.S. is mistaken in its perception of terrorism. This is why Washington has been left alone in its so-called fight against what it calls terrorism.

Indeed, terrorism is the main threat to global peace, security and development. Hence, fighting against terrorism is a sacred task and all countries should contribute to this noble cause.

Nevertheless, lopsided approach to the issue, or abusing the anti-terrorism campaign for parochial political gains, is certain to backfire. The most appropriate way to do away with international terrorism is taking a comprehensive stance towards this evil phenomenon.

In other words, a distinction should be made between a comprehensive approach and a selective stance. To clarify the matter, it is patent to everyone that Israel is the epitome of state-sponsored terrorism, as it has frequently violated all internationally recognized rules and regulations. The latest instance of Israeli crime against humanity was the massacre of innocent people at Cana in Lebanon. But the U.S. did not even condemn the criminal act, let alone taking punitive measures.

To cite another example, the United States has become a haven for a number of terrorists from the Third World countries who took subversive measures against popular and independent governments in their countries, aiming to overthrow those governments and establish puppet regimes which would lean toward the U.S.

Having been isolated in the international community through launching a self-serving campaign against what it calls terrorism, the U.S. next resorted to imposing its will on the international community through enacting extraterritorial laws so as to improve its international image. But this move was also doomed to failure.

The EU should be lauded for taking a brave stance against the U.S. bullying. The EU legal measures against Washington will definitely bring the U.S. officials to their senses.

As regards terrorism, the UN should hold an international conference on terrorism to come up with a clear and exact definition of the term. All members of the UN should participate in this conference, leaving no room for the U.S. to influence the outcome. Above all, the participants should commit themselves to what the conference may recommend.

President's Message Submitted to Rabbni

KABUL — Visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Alaeddin Boroujerdi on Tuesday submitted a message from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

At the meeting, the two sides also discussed relations between Tehran and Kabul, the latest developments in that war-torn country and important regional and global issues.

Boroujerdi said that Iran is pleased that the first step has been taken towards establishing overall peace in Afghanistan and that the Afghan Cabinet ministers presided over by Prime Minister Gulbudin Hekmatyar meets regularly.

The time has come for the Af-

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Iran and Azerbaijan Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Azeri Interior Minister, Ramil Asebov, here yesterday called on Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and discussed with him bilateral, regional and international issues.

Meanwhile, he met his Iranian counterpart, Ali Mohammad Besharati where the two sides singed a memorandum of understanding.

According to the MOU the two countries agreed to exchange information in scientific fields, share experiences in rehabilitation of drug addicts, facilitate customs formalities and further cooperate with the International Police.

Referring to the high potential of the two countries for expanding mutual cooperation and frequent visit of Iranian traders to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Besharti called on the Azeri officials to provide the necessary security for Iranian nationals visiting that country.

Stressing Iran's policy for maintaining good neighborly relations with its neighbors, he expressed hope that some of the



Mojtaba Takin — Tehran Times

problems hurdling the expansion of bilateral ties would be removed with the insight of the Azeri officials.

Lauding Iran for its good-will, the Azeri official said utilizing Iran's experiences will be very useful for his newly independent country.

He stressed on the security of Iranian nationals visiting his country, saying he will personally follow the issue and reassured that the culprits will be punished.

Appreciating Iran's assistances, he called on Iranian official to render more assistance to his country.

Kyrgyz President Seeks Iran's Help in Solving Regional Crises

TEHRAN -- Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev on Tuesday termed as "very bright" the prospect of the economic, cultural and political ties between Tehran and Bishkek.

Akayev, speaking to visiting Iranian First Vice-President Hassan Habibi here said that Iran because of enjoying an ancient civilization has always played a key role in the historical developments of the region.

The Kyrgyz president added that both Iran and Kyrgyzstan share centuries-old relations.

He called on Iran to continue playing its role as it has always been a pioneer in settling regional crises.

Habibi for his part said that Iran's foreign policy gives priority to expansion of Tehran-Bishkek ties as well as to mulilateral ties involving other Central Asian republics.

He said that Iran believed that the sole way to establish peace and stability in the region was peaceful negotiations among regional states.

Iran's efforts to establish cease-fire in Tajikistan, adoption of an active strategy to reconcile Afghan billigerent parties and making politicial consulations in order to solve Karabakh dispute were among the outstanding features of Tehran's diplomacy, he said. (IRNA)

Velayati Leaves for Geneva

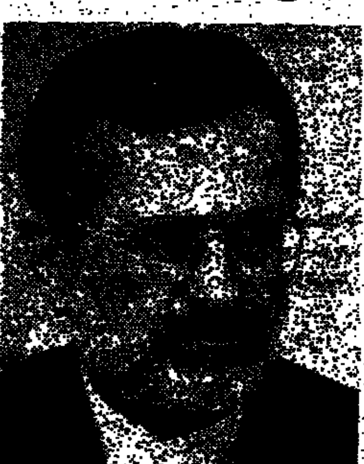
TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati heading a political delegation left for Geneva Tuesday to take part in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The group, comprising Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sengal, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Maghreb and Turkey, is to discuss the latest developments in Bosnia, holding of the presidential elections in the country on September 14, in particular.

Implementation of the peace accord especially the paragraphs dealing with the arrest and trial of war crimianls is among other issues to be discussed.

(IRNA)

Iran Reserves Right to Defend Itself Against Terrorism



UNITED NATIONS — Head of Iran's mission to the UN said the Islamic Republic reserves the right to self-defense and counter the attacks on its border cities by anti-revolutionary groups based in Iraqi territory.

In a letter Monday to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Iran's representative to the UN, Kamal Kharazi, said that under the prevailing circumstances, the government of Iraq is not in a position to exercise effective control over territory in the northern part of that country.

As a result, trans-border armed attacks and sabotage operations against Iranian border towns by terrorist groups from Iraqi territory have escalated in recent weeks.

Stressing the attacks have caused numerous human casualties and material damage to the civilian population, he underlined that these incursive and cruel activities constituted a grave violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"In response to these encroachments by terrorist armed groups and in accordance with its inherent right to self-defense as enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter, Iran took immediate and proportional measures that were necessary to curb and suppress such aggressive activities," he added.

Iran's permanent representative to the UN also mentioned in his letter that on July 28, 1996, Iranian defense forces pursued retreating armed groups that attacked civilian targets in the border towns of Piranshahr, Mahabad and Orumiyeh in northwestern Iran and tgargeted their training camps in Iraq. (IRNA)

Romania for Expansion of Agricultural Cooperation With Iran

VIENNA — Romanian Minister of Agriculture and Food, Valeriu Tabara voiced his country's readiness to broaden relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Bucharest Mahmood Sadri on Teusday.

The minister said that there are vast grounds for cooperation in the field of agriculture and both countries can mutually meet the agricultural needs of each other.

He added that Romania is ready to export meat, coocking oil and herb to Iran and in turn import agricultural products from the Islamic Republic.

He also expressed the interest of his country in exchanging research data in the fields of seed, pest and blight, genetic engineering and setting up of joint ventures. (IRNA)

Iranian Envoy to OIC Confers With IDB President

TEHRAN — Iran's Ambassador to the Jeddah-based Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Sabah Zanganeh and head of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Ahmad Mohammad Ali on Tuesday discussed ways of financing projects to be implemented by Iranian contractors in Muslim countries.

The two sides also exchanged views on procedures of the Islamic Development Bank for financing the export of technological and engineering services and export of equipment, construction materials and raw materials.

Among other issues discussed at the meeting were activation of private sector for implementation of development and technical projects in other member states.

(IRNA)

95 Percent of War-Devastated Plants in Khorramshahr Reconstructed

ABADAN, Khuzestan Prov. — Some 95 percent of the industrial units in Khorramshahr, demolished during the Iraqi imposed war (1980-88), have been reconstructed so far.

Making the above remark, the head of the provincial industries department Ebrahim Kazemi said that Rls. 4.5 billion has been spent so far on rebuilding the units numbering 169.

The southern port city of Khorramshahr, occupied by Iraqi forces in 1980, was liberated in 1982 by Iranian combatants. The port city was totally ruined when occupied by Iraqi troops soon after their aggression on Iran in 1980. Reconstruction of the residential, commercial and industrial units in Khorramshahr has been going on since its liberation. (IRNA)

Mazandaran Exports 1,600 Tons of Goods

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 1,600 tons of goods were exported from Mazandaran Province to the Central Asian republics last month, said the managing director of the provincial Standard and Industrial Research Department on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Asadullah Majidi added that during the same period 23,000 tons of commodities were also imported from the Central Asian states into this northern provice.

The commodities imported to the province were worth Rls.19.24 billion while the exported goods were valued at Rls.3.939 billion, Majidi added.

The goods imported included ironware and chemicals, while, clothing, sanitary products, construction materials and chinaware constituted the exported commodities, he said.

Iran Exported 90,000 Tons of Tar in the First Quarter

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Iran exported some 90,000 tons of different kinds of tar to other countries in the first quarter of the Iranian calendar year (starting March 20, 1996).

Ali Aqa Babaie, Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC), said here last week adding that NIOPDC is ready to supply any amount of tar to exporters and provide them with necessary customs facilities, according to the Public Relations Office of National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC).

Some 10,000 tons of tar are produced daily in Iranian oil refineries of which nearly 7,000 tons are used locally with the surplus being exported.

NIOPDC's selling price for one ton of bulk tar is Rls.22 thousand for the tar-exporters.

Tehran-Bishkek Stress on Bilateral Ties



JUMAGULOV



HABIBI

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Kyrgyz Prime Minister Abbas Jumagulov said in Bishkek yesterday that in view of the historical political, cultural, economic and geographical proximity between his country and Iran, Bishkek is keen on further strengthening bilateral ties with Tehran, IRNA reported.

Jumagulov, who was speaking at the banquet that he gave in honor of visiting Iranian First Vice-President Hassan Habibi, said that the inauguration of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway project and the historical role played by Iran in this project, has brought the East and the West closer.

He said that the railway track which connects landlocked Central Asian countries to the high seas via Iranian soil, was a great opportunity for expansion of ties between Iran and Kyrgyzstan.

The Kyrgyz premier called for economic and industrial cooperation between the Iranian province of Khorasan and the Kyrgyz province of Oush.

He also took note of the joint Iran-Kyrgyzstan projects in his country including the setting up of a mini-bus manufacturing plant.

Habibi, who arrived in Bishkek on Monday, underlined the importance of the two countries ties and called for their expansion.

He said that President Askar Akaev's visit to Iran late last April paved the way for expansion of the two countries' relations.

He announced Iran's readiness to enter into bilateral and multilateral relations with Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries.

Japanese Cabinet Prepares to Adopt New Budget

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Japanese cabinet was preparing to adopt late Tuesday a tough budget ceiling for the coming year following compromises by the three ruling parties on defense spending and foreign aid, AFP reported.

Finance Minister Wataru Kubo last week called for accelerated cuts in operating expenses at ministries to help ease the growing pressure on national finances and reform the country's outdated post-war economic structure.

While the cut in operating costs was earlier expected to reduce real growth in general expenditures from 4.2 percent to three percent, reports on Tuesday said the figure to be adopted by the cabinet meeting was closer to 3.5 percent.

General spending accounts for about two-thirds of the overall budget and excludes debts and transfers to local governments.

Earlier Tuesday, coalition sources were quoted as saying the three ruling parties agreed to limit the increase in the defense budget for the coming year to 2.88 percent, up from a 2.58 percent rise in the current year.

The accord represented a compromise between the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the left-wing Social Democratic Party (SDP).

The LDP was said to be seeking an increase of more than 3.5 percent while the SDP was pushing for an increase smaller than this year's rise. New party Sakigake, the smallest party in the coalition, had reportedly said it would not accept any increase of more than three percent.

With the agreement, Japan's defense budget is poised to grow at a faster rate than its foreign aid budget for the first time since the current budget ceiling system was introduced in 1982, *JIJI* press said.

On Monday, the three parties agreed to limit the increase in Japan's foreign aid budget to 2.6 percent in the fiscal year starting next April, the smallest increase in 14 years and well down from seven percent in the current year.

Hideo Usui, the Director General of the Defense Agency who is also from the LDP, the biggest coalition partner, had called for an increase of 4.5 percent in defense spending in a meeting earlier Tuesday with Finance Minister Wataru Kubo.

"We would like to raise the defense budget by 4.5 percent," the Japanese defense chief was quoted as saying. "But we will consider the matter further, with the aim of limiting the extent of the rise."

Kubo, who hails from the SDP, asked Usui to curb the increase as other ministries are cutting their outlays in the national budget for the fiscal year starting next April, finance ministry officials said.

Construction of Oil Terminal to Start

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The contract between the Azerbaijan State Oil Company, AIOC, and the Azeri-German alliance Habeg-Azerpromstroi on construction of oil terminal in Sangachali was signed at AIOC office in Baku yesterday, as quoted by an IRNA-Turan dispatch.

The cost of the contract is approximately $6.5 million, $2.5 million of which falls on Azerpromstroi.

The contract, on a turn-key basis, must be put into operation not later than August 15, 1997 since recovery of first oil is scheduled for August 27, 1997. Habeg company will be responsible for managerial side of the project, while Azerpromstroi will be engaged in construction.

Director of Azerpromstroi, Shaig Eyubov, said that the Azeri side committed itself to implement the contract qualitatively and in time as it already has expereience in similar projects.

The contract envisages construction of terminal for "early" oil.

High-pressure tank connections and mounting of additional structures of the terminal will be carried out by the compnay.

Iran's Wind Power Stations Set New World Record

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Manjil and Roudbar Wind Power Stations in Guilan province, Caspian Sea, generated 5.5 million kilowatts of power during the past 15 months, setting a new world record, a local official said in Rasht Monday.

Ali Mohammad Ahmadi, Head of the Center for Research and the Application of New Energies, affiliated to Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, said the amount of power generated by the said stations, as compared with the wind energy produced in Europe, sets a new world standard, IRNA reported.

Manufacturing of Machineries of Sangan-e-Khawf Mill Starts

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Designing and manufacturing of the machinaries for the Sangan-e-Khawf Steel Mill started last month by Iranian experts, the official in charge of the project said on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Bahram Sobhani added that with cooperation of the private sector Rls.150 billion in credit has been allocated to the plan.

The mill, once operational, will produce 300,000 tons of pig iron a year to be utilized by Khorasan Steel Complex, Sobhani added.

The construction work of the unit started last March and is expected to be completed within the next two years.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Tuesday July 30, 1996.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,378	1,385	2,365	2,377
Austria	schilling	167	168	287	289
Belgium	(100)francs	5,719	5,752	9,818	9,867
Canada	dollar	1,274	1,281	2,186	2,197
Denmark	krone	305	307	524	527
France	franc	348	350	597	600
Germany	mark	1,178	1,185	2,022	2,033
Holland	guilder	1,050	1,056	1,802	1,811
Italy	(100)liras	114	115	196	197
Japan	(100)yen	1,620	1,629	2,767	2,781
Sweden	krone	266	268	457	459
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,723	2,738	4,674	4,697
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

Unity Week Celebrations in Afghanistan

KABUL – The Unity Week celebrations marking the birth anniversary of the Almighty's last messenger to mankind, Mohammad al-Mustafa (S), started in Afghanistan on Monday.

In Kabul mosques, husseiniyehs and government offices observed the auspicious occasion with speakers throwing light on different aspects of the immaculate personality of the Seal of Prophethood.

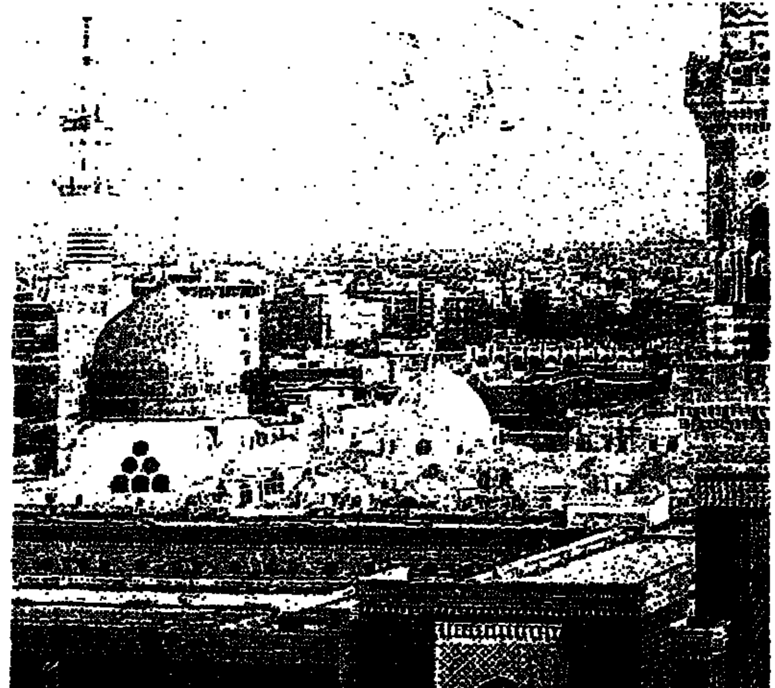
The Unity Week spans between the two days of the month of Rabiul-Awal (12th to the 17th) regarded as the birth of the Prophet (S) by the Sunnis and the Shias respectively, and was initiated by Iran following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

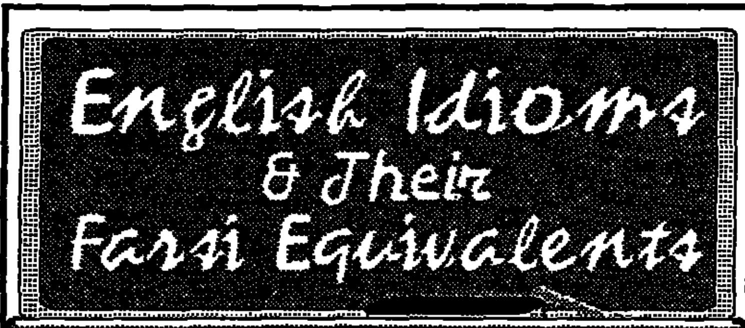
The Sunnis base their reports on the narrations of the companions of the Prophet (S) while the Shias cite the accounts of the immediate household of the Prophet (S) as more authoritative.

The aim of the Unity Week is to bring Muslims of different schools on a common platform, as was seen in Kabul on Monday where both the Sunnis and Shias turned for the celebrations.

In one of the ceremonies at the Herati Mosque in Kabul, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, who is on his peace shuttle in Afghanistan, took time-off from official meetings to attend the gathering.

Both Sunni and Shia speakers dwelt on the need of Islamic unity and warning of the dangers from the enemies of Islam, appreciated the efforts of the father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (R.A.) for taking the historical step to build bridges between world Muslims. (AFP)





Lesson 14:
Tehran Times Service

English Idiom:
ASK FOR TROUBLE: to do or say something which causes trouble
If you ask for your legal rise at this office, you are certainly asking for trouble.

Farsi Equivalent: * دنبال دردسر گشتن
* **DONBAAL-E DARDESAR GASHTAN:** (word for word meaning: after headache, searching); to do or say something which will cause trouble.
* ***Dar Jomhoury-ye Demoland sohbat kardan az siasat ya'ni donbaal-e dardesar gashtan.***

(In the Republic of Demoland, to speak of political issues is asking for trouble.)

*** *** ***

English Idiom:
AT DEATH'S DOOR: (*Euphemistic*); near death; spending last days of life.
The old man was apparently **at death's door,** yet his graving for more wealth never let him enjoy even his last days.

Farsi Equivalent: * آفتاب لب بام
* **AAFTAAB-E LAB-E BAAM:** *(Euphemistic);* (word for word meaning: a sun on the edge of the roof) near death.
* **Pedar bozorg digar *aaftaab-e lab-e baam*** *ast, baa ou mehrabaan tar baash.*
(Grandfather is at death's door, be kinder to him.)

*** *** ***

English Idiom:
AT EVERY TURN: everywhere; wherever one looks.
Nowadays in the Republic of Demoland, there is a new problem at every turn.

Farsi Equivalent: * به هرکجا نگری
* **BE HAR KOJA NEGARI:** (*Literary*); (word for word meaning: to anywhere you look); everywhere, wherever one looks.
* ***Be har koja negari*** *aaseman hamin rang ast. (Persian proverb)*
(At every turn the sky is blue.)

*** *** ***

English Idiom:
AT LOGGERHEADS: in opposition; at an impasse; in a quarrel.
The Capital Municipality and the Interior Ministry have always been **at loggerheads** in the Republic of Demoland.

Farsi Equivalent: * سر جنگ داشتن
* **SAR-E JANG DAASHTAN:** (word for word meaning: head of war, to have); to be ready to start a quarrel.
* *Hamsar-e azizam hamishe' ba man* ***sar-e jang darad!***
(My dear wife is always at loggerheads with me!)

Norwegian Youth Sets Ablaze Refugee Home

OSLO– A Norwegian youth, who police suspect, set fire to an Iraqi refugee family's home in southern Oslo on Tuesday morning in an apparent act of racism has been arrested, police said.

No one was injured in the blaze, as the 10 or so refugees living in the house in Toensberg had been alerted by neighbours, police said.

The fire broke out shortly before 4:00 a.m. (0200 GMT) and was quickly brought under control. Material damages were limited.

Police suspect several youths aged 16 to 20 to be responsible for the attack, which they believe was "racially motivated." One of the youths was arrested, but no details of his arrest or identity were disclosed. (AFP)

British Actor's $11,000-a-Month Residence

LOS ANGELES– British heartthrob actor Hugh Grant has rented the five-bedroom Beverly Hills home of a French viscount for $11,000-a-month, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

Grant's upcoming film "Extreme Measures", co-produced by Elizabeth Hurley, is due to appear on U.S. screens September 27.

Hurley has recently signed on to act in "Austin Powers, International Man of Mystery," a comic spy story. (AFP)

Japan Jobless Rate 3.1 Pct, Record High in June

TOKYO– Japan's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate stayed at a record high of 3.5 percent for the second straight month in June, the Management and Coordination Agency said Tuesday.

Economic Planning Agency director-general Shusei Tanaka said the labour market was under extreme pressure. The record high jobless rate was still the worst since the government started compiling data in 1953.

"Despite the slow economic recovery, the labour market conditions remain severe," he told a media conference after a cabinet meeting.

The number of unemployed in June was 2.26 million, up 240,000 from a year earlier, with the unemployment rate was at 3.6 percent for men and 3.4 percent for women, both unchanged from the previous month.

On a half-year basis, the jobless rate averaged 3.5 percent, eclipsing the previous record high of 3.2 percent for the six months to December 1995.

"The employment situation is still severe, with corporate bankruptcy numbers at a high level," a management and coordination agency official said.

Unemployment rates remained "fairly high" for young and senior people, at 6.6 percent for the 15-to-24 age group, up 0.9 percentage points from a year earlier, and 4.0 percent for those between 55 and 64, up 0.3 percentage points, he said.

But the official noted more than one third of young workers had "voluntarily" left their jobs, while senior people became jobless "for the convenience of companies."

"Those who want to return to the workforce in view of an economic recovery also pushed up the unemployment rate," he said.

Another agency official, however, said the 6.6 percent jobless rate among young workers was "alarming" as unemployment traditionally falls towards July with demand for casual workers usually boosted in the retail and distribution sectors by the summer gift-giving season.

Meanwhile, the Labour Ministry said in a separate report that the ratio of job openings to job seekers rose from 0.69 in May to 0.71 in June, the first time it has been above 0.70 since September 1993.

The June ratio means there were 71 job offers for every 100 job seekers.

Tanaka said improvement in the ratio reflected emerging signs of a recovery in the labor market. (AFP)

Disney Characters to Reach 400 million Chinese

LOS ANGELES – China has struck a deal with Walt Disney Co. and China U.S.A Entertainment (CUE) that could bring everything from Rap music and Snow White to some 400 million Chinese radio listeners.

Disney and CUE have launched the "Its a small world" advertiser-supported radio broadcast in China on China National Radio, which potentially could tap one million listeners, the world's largest radio audience.

"It will bring the world's premier entertainment company in front of the world's largest radio audience," said Donald Altfeld, who heads cue and has been associated with Chinese radio over the past decade.

Among upcoming programming are: "The new American music hour" that will provide Chinese listeners with a full spectrum of U.S. popular music including Boyz II Men, Neil Diamond, Kenny G and Whitney Houston.

Altfeld said he expects to see explosive growth for the entertainment business in China, including music and television. Up until now, he said that U.S. basketball has been the biggest U.S. television attraction. (AFP)

Eel Be All Right on the Flight!

Japan's Nationwide Eel-Eating-Day Ahead

BEIJING– Chinese airlines are squirming with delight at the fat profits they are reaping by flying hundreds of tons of live eels to Japan, Xinhua reported Wednesday.

Ahead of Japan's nationwide eel-eating-day Saturday, Chinese Airlines have dispatched staff to the countryside to collect the prize catch, as well as switching from Boeing 757s to the larger 767 for flights to Japan.

Eels contain a lot of Vitamin A, which Japanese believe helps them to endure the country's hot and humid summer. Sales of the fish, normally eaten basted with thick sauce and nestling in a bed of rice, peak in the hottest months.

South China Airlines this month has flown at least 250 tons of eels to Japan from the southern Chinese city of Guangdong, up from 180 tons last month, an official with the airline's cargo department said.

"The passengers and eels are on the same flight; three flights a week, 15 tons per flight," said the official, who said he did not know how much the eels were worth. "I only heard it is bringing in a lot of money," he said.

The official said a recent food poisoning scare which has affected 6,409 people in the central Japanese city of Osaka has not resulted in any drop in exports.

Japanese medical authorities announced Tuesday three deaths from Japan's worst post-war outbreak of food poisoning as the rate of new infections in the suburbs of Osaka resumed rising after a short-lived decline.

Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry issued a warning against the consumption of raw animal meat over the weekend after at least one case of food poisoning was traced to raw beef liver.

Earlier reports had attributed the Sakai outbreak to Sushi made from conger eel, a marine species usually eaten raw in Japan. (AFP)

El Che's Private Life on Screen at 30th Death Anniversary



LOS ANGELES–"Il Postino" director Michael Radford's next film will about the private life of gerrilla legend Ernesto "Che" Guevara (El Che) and an East German spy.

Warner Bros. expects to launch the movie next year to coincide with the 30th anniversary of Guevara's death at the hands of the Bolivian military.

Daily Variety said the role of the man who led the Cuban Revolution along with Feidel Castro could be played by Antonio Banderas, who played "Che" in the musical comedy "Evita."

The *Rolling Stones'* Mick Jagger is the film's executive producer. AFP

Cute Seahorse Under Threat from Medicine Makers

BRISBANE, Australia– The seahorse, that delicate marine animal with the head of a horse on an upright body, has joined the list of creatures now threatened by the Chinese and other medicine markets, an expert warned here Tuesday.

British marine biologist Amanda Vincent told the Second World Fisheries Congress currently held in the Australian capital that more than 20 million seahorses a year are being used to treat everything from heart disease to impotence, putting the species at risk.

"Several million more are sold in the aquarium trade or as dried curios, putting further pressure on their survival," she said.

"They're sexy and everybody in the world loves them."

But the five-day congress, which has brought together 900 experts from 55 countries, has also further been told that all kinds of fish and marine creatures are now under threat and urgent remedies must be found to save them at the brink of extinction.

"Papua New Guinea takes up to 6,000 turtles a year for food and the Indonesians take 75,000 to meet commercial demands," Young, the spokesman of the congress said.

Vincent, an Oxford University researcher who is conducting a world-wide research campaign into seahorses, said Chinese importers were currently paying 1,200 U.S. dollars per kilo for them making them seven times more valuable than silver.

"The Chinese medicine trade sells them in powder form as aphrodisiacs and for health problems ranging from impotence to heart disease," she said.

The creatures were coming under increasing pressure because of the expanding Chinese economy.

Her research suggested, for example that 70 percent of the seahorse population in waters around the Philippines had already disappeared through overharvesting. (AFP)

Xiong Completes Medal Collection With Olympic Gold

ATLANTA — Xiong Ni, runner-up to diving legend Greg Louganis on the platform in Seoul, then bronze medalist on the platform in Barcelona, switched to springboard to claim his first Olympic gold on Monday.

Xiong led a Chinese one-two on the men's 3m springboard ahead of teammate Yu Zhuocheng.

American Mark Lenzi, whose fortunes plummeted so dramatically after his 3m victory in Barcelona that he nearly considered selling his gold medal, was third.

Xiong won with a total of 701.460 points from Monday afternoon's semifinals and the six-dive final.

Yu totaled 690.930 points and Lenzi had 686.490 points. Xiong's victory came just in time to finish his diving career with a flourish.

Competing in his third Olympics at the age of 22, Xiong has told Chinese diving officials he wants to retire and go back to school after the games. He started diving when he was eight.

It was China's second diving gold of the games, after Fu Mingxia retained her 10m platform title on Sunday.

Lenzi and Yu were tied for second behind Xiong after Monday afternoon's semifinals, whose points are combined with those of the finals for the final medal standings.

It was in the semis that Xiong began to stamp his authority on the competition, receiving no score lower than seven on his five voluntary dives. On three of his semifinal dives he scored no lower than eight.

(AFP)



Japan Beats Korea to Stay in Medal Hunt

ATLANTA-- Japan and South Korea were supposed to be playing for seedings, not survival, at this point in the Olympic baseball tournament.

But Japan's 14-4 victory over the Koreans here eliminated the losers from medal contention. And Japan faces yet another must-win situation against Italy on Tuesday in order to reach the medal round.

A victory and Japan would play the United States in one semi-final Thursday while reigning Olympic champion Cuba and Nicaragua meet in the other. Top seed Cuba edged Nicaragua 8-7 Monday.

A loss would likely mean the end of Japan's Olympic medal streak. The Japanese took gold at Los Angeles in 1984, silver in Seoul in 1988 and bronze at Barcelona.

The situation is worse for South Korea, the world championships runner-up only two years ago. Their major woe is baseball's amateurs-only status in the games, likely to be discarded so pros can play at Sydney in 2000.

Struggles by the Asian leaders came as European and North American squads showed improvement. No European team had won more than one game in any prior Olympic tournament. Now Italy or the Dutch might play for a medal.

Yoshitomo Tani and Nobuhiko Matsunaka homered while Tadahito Iguchi had a two-run triple to lead Japan.

Cuba's Orestes Kindelan set an Olympic record by driving home his 14th run, surpassing the mark set in 1992 by Japan's Koji Tokunaga. The run came in the fifth inning on Kindelan's seventh homer of the games.

(AFP)

ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 29): Jorge Elguetta (R) from Argentina jumps for a return as Marcin Nowak (C) from Poland tries to block in their preliminary match at the Olympic volleyball event at the Omni Coliseum in Atlanta, Georgia. In background is Alejandro Romano from Argentina. Argentina won 3-1.

(AFP PHOTO)

Koyama Beaten by Ex-Teammate

ATLANTA — A former Chinese teammate ended Chire Koyama's eight-year-long drive for Olympic table tennis glory under the Japanese flag.

The woman the Chinese media branded "a traitor" after she beat China's two leading players at the Asian Games lost 18-21, 19-21, 15-21 to world number-two Qiao Hong.

China dumped Koyama when she was world champion just ahead of the 1988 Seoul Games. Chinese officials said she was considered too old but Koyama said it was because she had refused to throw a match.

Now a naturalized Japanese, Koyama, 31, failed to keep early leads in each game in the women's singles quarterfinal.

"I could only use half my techniques and I got anxious when I began to make mistakes on scoring chances," she said.

Asked about her future, she said, "The match has just ended and I cannot tell right now."

But her influential husband and coach, Hideyuki Koyama, hinted that her career was all but over. "I have not yet thought about her future but I want to make her live in leisure from now on."

Koyama's story is that she refused an order to throw a match to a younger teammate in the 1987 world championships because she thought she had a better chance of gold. The Shanghai Physical Technique School graduate won the title but lost her place on the Olympic squad.

She left China the next year to marry a Japanese whom she met at an international. It was too late for her to make the 1992 Barcelona Games but she went on to win Japan's national title for three straight years.

She got revenge in 1994 when she beat Qiao and world champion Deng Yaping to lift the Asian Games title in her adopted country.

Asked about Qiao, Koyama had no direct answer. "I gave all I had. There is always a winner and a loser."

(AFP)



ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 29): Ivan Pinheiro from Brazil (2nd R) leaps to throw through the Spanish defense during their Olympic handball match at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Spain won the preliminary Pool B match 27-17.

(AFP PHOTO)

The Beach Party's Over

ATLANTA — The first Olympic beach volleyball party is over, American style, with stars and fans calling for more.

"We proved we are not boring," said Karch Kiraly after winning his third Olympic gold medal, the first two on the indoor hardcourt in 1984 and 1988. "It should be a permanent part of the Olympic programme."

The fun-in-the-sun version of 100-year-old volleyball was played for the first time as a full-fledged Olympic sport on a man-made sandlot, some 250 miles (400 kilometres) away from the Atlantic Ocean.

The International Olympic Committee, pressed to slim their bloated festival, has yet to decide if they'd keep the California-born two-a-side duel for the 2000 Sydney Games.

But the International Volleyball Federation were optimistic as Australia has some 600,000 beach players.

(AFP)

Netherlands Swamp S. Africa to Top Group B

ATLANTA — The Netherlands beat South Africa 4-1 Monday to set up an Olympic men's hockey semi-final clash against defending champions Germany.

The Dutch ended the preliminary league as Group B winners with nine points from five matches — two more than second-placed Australia who take Spain in Wednesday's other semi-final.

The Dutch win quelled speculation that they would throw away their last match in order to finish second in the group — and avoid a match-up with the powerful Germans.

The Dutch warmed up for the semi-finals by unleashing a new penalty corner exponent in Bram Lomans, who ended the South African resistence with two first-half goals.

The 21-year-old Lomas, who normally sits on the bench watching his idol Floris-Jan Bovelander crack penalty corners, grabbed the opportunity when Oltmans played him from the start.

He slammed home the first penalty corner in the 11th minute, and after Marc Delissen had scored the second goal in the 13th, returned nine minutes before half-time to make it 3-0.

Greg Nicol reduced the margin for South Africa in the 43rd minute to join Spain's Javier Arnau and calum giles of Britain as the tournament's leading scorers with five goals apiece.

Taco Van den Honert capped the Dutch domination by scoring the fourth goal in the 54th and giving his team their biggest win in the tournament.

The big Dutch win came as a bonus for Asian champions South Korea, who moved from fifth place to fourth in the group with four points. Britain were third with five points.

South Africa, playing in their first Olympics, ended the league with three points and Malaysia were sixth with two.

In the classification matches for fifth and eighth places starting on Wednesday, South Korea take on India while Britain clash with Pakistan. The winners of the two matches will play again to decide the fifth spot.

Malaysia play Argentina and South Africa face the United States in the play-offs for ninth to 12th places.

(AFP)

Hagi Negotiations With Galatasaray

BUCHAREST — Romanian international Gheorghe Hagi is having talks with Turkish side Galatasaray in the hope of leaving Barcelona.

Hagi's agent Ioan Becali is currently in Istanbul for this reason. Galatasaray, who are playing in the European Cup Winners' Cup next season, have offered 1.5 million dollars for the Romanian captain.

Mexican side Atalante, who have already signed Romanian defender Miodrag Belodedici, have also shown interest in signing Hagi.

(AFP)

Tehran Times Service

Carl Lewis, 35, became an athletics legend by making the Atlanta Olympics long jump his ninth gold medal in four games. He is now equal with Paavo Nurmi of Finland in the 1920s.

Michael Johnson took the men's 400m title to move a step closer to a historic Olympic double. He will go for the 200m later this week. Marie-Jose Perec of France won the women's 400m and will also go for a 200m double. World champion Allen Johnson of the United States claimed the 110m hurdles gold, while Haile Gebreselassie of Ethiopia won the men's 10,000m in an Olympic record time of 27min 07.34sec.

Ilke Wyludda of Germany won the women's discus. Rank outsider Svetlana Masterkova shocked everyone by running away with the 800m title. Jelena Nikolayeva of Russia took the women's 10km walk after world champion Iriana Stankina was disqualified.

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Lilia Podkopayeva of Ukraine won the gymnastics women's individual floor title, to add to her all around title, but she was beaten into second place on the balance beam by Shannon Miller of the United States. In the men's contest, Rustam Sharipov of Ukraine won the parallel bars gold and Russia's Alexei Nemov won the vault. Andreas Wecker of Germany won the men's high bar.

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China's Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong retained their women's doubles table tennis title, beating compatriots Liu Wei and Qiao Yunping 18-21, 25-23, 22-20, 21-14. China, who swept all titles at the last world championships, also assured themselves of the men's doubles gold when world and Olympic champions Wang Tao and Lu Lin reached the final where they play Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang.

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The Russian Olympic Committee expressed outrage over the expulsion from the Atlanta Games of two Russian bronze medalists who failed drug tests.

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Top seed Monica Seles tumbled out of the Olympic tennis tournament to Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic who won 7-5, 3-6, 8-6. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain who beat Japan's Kimiko Date 4-6, 6-3, 10-8 is now favourite.

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U.S. Frowns on Iran's Aid to Bosnia

WASHINGTON — The United States voiced disapproval Monday over a 50-million-dollar Iranian aid package to Bosnia, and said envoy John Kornblum would raise the matter during talks in Sarajevo this week.

"They don't need $50 million from Iran," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said of the credit announced Saturday at the conclusion of a visit to Sarajevo of Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi.

The issue was to be discussed during Kornblum's talks in Sarajevo on Wednesday, he said.

Burns underscored that the international community so far has pledged $1.8 billion in aid to Bosnia, of which 550 million is from the United States.

Kornblum was to travel to Brussels Tuesday for talks on the Bosnian peace process and to meet with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and NATO's top commander in Europe, General George Joulwan.

He then travels to Sarajevo and Mostar where tensions between ethnic Croats and Muslims are running high. Mostar Croats are boycotting the Muslim-dominated city council that emerged from elections held there on June 30.

Kornblum, the assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs, was also planning meetings in Zagreb.

But he plans to go to Belgrade next week during a separate trip that will be preceded by a return to Washington on Thursday, the State Department said. Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was unable to meet with Kornblum this week.

(AFP)

Perry Arrives for Talks With King Fahd on U.S. Troop Security

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia — U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry arrived in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to discuss security for U.S. troops following last month's deadly bombing, a Saudi official said.

Perry "arrived in Jeddah and will meet King Fahd and Crown-Prince Abdullah" to discuss how to protect some 6,200 U.S. military personnel deployed in Saudi Arabia, according to the official who asked not to be named.

U.S. Embassy officials in Saudi Arabia refused to comment on his visit after a Pentagon official said Monday in Washington that Perry had left to an undisclosed location to examine the readiness and welfare of U.S. forces.

The Saudi-owned *Al-Hayat* newspaper said that Perry would inspect several sites in Saudi Arabia, including the Kharj Air Base 80 kilometers (48 miles) south of the capital Riyadh where most of the U.S. troops may be relocated.

A U.S. task force said it had been "very impressed" with how well Kharj would protect U.S. military personnel from another attack like the June 25 bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen at a base in Khobar, on the eastern Persian Gulf coast.

Colonel Richard Bridges, a spokesman for the task force headed by retired General William Downing, said Kharj Air Base would be "a prime candidate should we decide to consolidate troops."

But additional security measures would still have to be taken at Kharj, he said.

Bridges said Tuesday from Qatar that General Downing would not be able to meet with Perry in Saudi Arabia.

No arrests have been announced in the June bombing at the Khobar-Dhahran area. (AFP)

Settlements Mean War, Palestinians Warn

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — Senior Palestinian leaders warned Tuesday of a return to war and bloodshed if Israel goes ahead with plans to relaunch a settlement drive on the West Bank.

"When they confiscate my land, when they confiscate my water, when they confiscate my future, this means a declaration of war and war means bloodshed," said Justice Minister Freih abu Meddein.

"They will lose peace not only with the Palestinians but with the Middle East, with Jordanians, Egyptians and everybody, and fundamentalism will grow," he told journalists.

Ahmad Korei, one of the key Palestinian architects of the autonomy accords with Israel, said: "The Israelis are destroying the peace process."

The pair were in Bethlehem for a meeting of the Palestinian Legislative Council to debate Jewish settlements and the disputed issue of Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

Israel's rightwing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Monday in Bait-ul-Moqaddas with settler leaders who have drawn up an action plan to double their numbers in the Palestinian territories by the turn of the century.

Netanyahu has said his government will protect the "right of the Jews" to settle in the territories.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg.1)

PAYMASTERS..

The Leader said that the enemy is helpless in its effort to tarnish the bright image of the Islamic Revolution in the world.

Ayatollah Khamenei added that the Islamic Revolution has found its real status in the world and that undoubtedly the organized propaganda of Western mass media will never tarnish the bright record of the popular Islamic government of Iran which relies on the Islamic values and is free from the corruptions prevailing in other countries.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

COMMISION...

As well as provding the basis for law suits, Helms Burton also alows for U.S. visa restrictions to be applied to executives of companies that trade with Cuba.

But until U.S. companies begin filing lawsuits — which cannot happen before next year, the EU has no basis for targetting a reciprocal action.

Britain and Germany have indicated that a generalized visa restriction on American businessmen would represent an excessive and unjustified response to Helms Burton, although they have not ruled out such a step in the longer term.

The EU has also said it will take the Helms-Burton legislation to a disputes panel in the World Trade Organization.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MILITARY....

counterpart, General Ehud Barak, in Washington in December 1994. He also met Barak's successor General Amnon Shahak in June 1995, but neither meeting achieved concrete results.

Earlier Monday rightwing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was in contact with Syria using the United States as go-between to try to resume stalled peace talks.

Former Israeli Premier Shimon Peres called off the talks in February at the start of a wave of bombings in the Zionist state.

But they made little tangible progress before their suspension, with the main obstacles being the scale and timetable of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, subsequent security arrangements for the plateau and the degree of normalization to be introduced after a peace deal.

Since hardline, nationalist leader Netanyahu took power last month he has publicly ruled out handing back any of the Golan to Syria.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

KHARAZI...

In an interview on Sunday with the NBC television network on the recent events in the U.S., Gingrich made repeated baseless accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran alleging it of supporting international terrorism.

Gingrich added that the U.S. should prove Iran's role in international terrorist acts to its European allies and added that Washington should also take appropriate measures against the Islamic Iran, if necessary.

In response to Gingrich's baseless accusations, Kharazi noted that his remarks are nothing but repetition of the baseless claims of the past, falsity of which have always been proven. Kharazi stressed that raising these claims have nothing to do with the recent incidents in U.S.

Instead of resorting to such accusations against Middle East countries including Iran, Gingrich should have looked for the social causes which push certain American groups to acts of terrorism, incidents such as Oklahoma and Atlanta bombings.

Such accusations will not only fail to solve domestic problems of America but will also generate further hatred against U.S. among world Muslims, the Iranian envoy added.

Expressing his regret over the twa flight crash and condemning the Atlanta bombing, Kharazi noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran, one of the main victims of terrorism, has repeatedly called for collective world efforts to uproot terrorism of all kind.

He further voiced Iran's readiness to help launch international efforts to eradicate terrorism from the face of the globe.

Kharazi stated that this irresponsible and baseless claims made by a U.S. official will lead to creation of tension in international relations.

He concluded that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers it as its own right to pursue the issue at relevant international bodies.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MUSLIMS...

that the five major Islamic branches and the minor sects have many points in common which outnumber the differences.

Referring to different trends of thought on political and social matters, the ayatollah stressed that the Islamic movements will achieve their objectives provided that their beliefs pivot on the Holy Qoran and that they offer solutions to the problems of the contemporary man by applying Islamic jurisprudence.

The secretary general of the assembly also hinted at the recent social developments in Afghanistan, Turkey and Pakistan. He noted that such developments indicate that the Islamic ideology is nowadays playing a major part on the international scene.

"If we consider the victory of the Islamic factions in nationwide elections in those countries as well as the activities of the Islamists in Algeria, Sudan and Lebanon during the recent years, we inevitably come to the conclusion that a chain of Islamic renaissance is coming into existence," the ayatollah said.

He added, "Of course it is too early to say that all Islamic movements throughout the world have achieved victory. However, the very fact that the movements are motivated by Islamic ideology marks a significant achievement for Islam in the contemporary era."

(Contd from Pg. 1)

KINKEL...

national fight against terrorism than those we already have," said Kinkel.

Questioned about the exchange of information between European countries, the German minister regretted that "national interests had until now remained the priority in justice and interior matters."

But Kinkel remained optimistic about the G7 conference. "I think we will be able to say afterwards: It has contributed something," he said. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MUSLIM...

compared with those of the enemies," Madani said.

He called the efforts at achieving unity as not having been very efficient but not also in vain, and that the Islamic Revolution's contribution consists in galvanizing such efforts to become more effective in bringing the various Islamic schools of thought closer.

He said that today Muslim ulema from different sects have established the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects which aims to explore avenues for Muslim unity.

Madani praised Iran's initiative at setting up the world assembly, calling it unprecedented in Muslim history. He stressed the importance of the assembly in the way its seminars influence the common people to follow their ulema through the exchange of views among representatives of other Islamic sects.

Alluding to the current situation of Muslims, the president's advisor said that if Muslims want to change their status quo and become stronger the only option open to them is through unity.

He lamented the fact that despite the geo-strategic importance of Muslim countries today, i.e., the world's main oil reservoirs are under their control, and the size of their combined population, they are not able to achieve their rightful status.

"Their weakness stems from their differences," he said.

Madani praised the activities of the World Assembly for the Proximity of Islamic Sects, but added that Muslims still have a long way to go before they can claim victory over the enemies of Islam who have for so long tried to undermine Muslim interests.

He said the observance of Unity Week in most Islamic countries itself shows some amount of success in efforts at unity on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He cited another instance of success in efforts at unity which is the observance of International Qods Day.

He lauded the efforts of the late Imam Khomeini, saying it was through his initiative that the last Friday of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan was declared a day in which world Muslims are to display their solidarity with the Palestinian nation.

"Those Muslim countries whose ulema take part in the assembly's meetings will act as their nations' informants on the experiences and topics discussed during the meetings," Madani said.

He said it was through the dialogues in various world assembly sessions that most misunderstandings between the different Shia and Sunni sects have been hammered out.

"Muslims should bear in mind that the enemies have neither been weakened nor subjugated, and that they will use their utmost to broaden the rift between the different Muslim sects," he said.

Although the mass media of Muslim countries are mostly in the hands of the ruling classes which try to hamper the achievement of unity, the people have welcomed the concept," Madani added.

Outlining the factors hindering the_realization of unity among Muslims, Madani said that the powers of global arrogance which is out to plunder the natural resources of Muslim countries oppose the unity of Muslims.

Moreover, he said, the ruling classes in Muslim countries who see Muslim unity as detrimental to themselves try to hinder unity, adding that those who have trivial differences under the flag of Islam will strike the heaviest blow by insisting on those differences.

Madani went on to warn Muslims everywhere against using trivial differences to defeat the cause of Islam.

"What is important is that the backbone of Islam, the commonalities existing among Muslims of different sects, should prevail," he said.

"Iran, which has initiated the move for proximity of Muslims sects, should not only lead but should also be its example," Madani said.

He said that Iran is fortunate so far in that its message is rooted deep in the people's instinct.

Islam is a religion of peace and unity and Muslims will, by no means pose any threat to any neighboring country." Madani concluded.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAN...

"We have in a previous meeting with the Taleban in Iran expressed our concern over the spread of narcotics in the region, the possibility of regional instability and also over the need to remove Kabul from rocketing range," he told journalists at the Iranian Embassy.

"All these issues will be raised again during the upcoming visit and we hope that we will then be able to witness a change in Taleban policy from continuing war to talking about peace," he added.

"We are hoping the Taleban will give up fighting and accept negotiations," Brujerdi, who has spearheaded Iran's diplomatic drive for peace in Afghanistan, said.

Tehran is worried by the rise of the Taleban in southwestern Afghanistan along its eastern border, and has cited worries about the "export" of opium from the area and about regional security concerns.

The militiamen, who have been besieging Kabul for 10 months, control about half of war-torn Afghanistan and have vowed they will oust Kabul's government and impose strict Islamic law across the country.

Brujerdi, who launched his shuttle diplomacy campaign here 10 months ago in a bid to bring some of the country's warring factions closer together, however refused to specify when the team would head to Herat.

Brujerdi said the Hezb's joining the Kabul administration had "raised hopes that other factions not yet in the government would soon join the peace process."

He said he was optimistic that Shia Muslim opposition leader Karim Khalili and his Hezb-i-Wahdat group would join the government, a move which political analysts here have been anticipating for weeks.

"If we are patient and work hard he will definitely join the peace process. I consider the stand of the government towards Khalili positive and hope that we will soon witness this great event."

Brujerdi met President Rabbani, Prime Minister Hekmatyar, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs Najibullah Lafraie, Defense Minister Wahidullah Sabawoon as well as other coalition party leaders during his two-day visit to the besieged Afghan capital.

He discussed Iran's continued political and economic cooperation with Afghanistan with Kabul's leadership.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 10)

NEC .....

contingent on NCAR demonstrating that they were not dumped.

Cray calculated the systems would cost NEC more than $80 million to produce and the Japanese firm would get only about $15 million in revenue on the transaction.

The balance of the $35.25 million bid price will be paid out to other vendors for items such as maintenance, installation, disk drives and software, Cray said.

(AFP)

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran:	Max. temp.	33°C
	Min. temp.	22°C
Clear to partly cloudy with wind		
Warmest Point:		
Ramhormoz	46°C	
Coldest Point:		
Firoozkouh	8°C	

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	44	Vienna	27
Istanbul	–	Moscow	–
Rome	28	Madrid	30
Athens	–	Abu Dhabi	44
London	22	Karachi	–
Paris	25	New Delhi	32
Frankfurt	27	Kuwait	47

President Rafsanjani Calls For Use of Medicinal Herbs

TEHRAN -- President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Tuesday that while the world's most advanced nations are now using medicinal herbs in medical fields, Iran should use those herbs along with chemical medicines.

Making the above remark during a tour of the Medical Sciences Academy, the president added, "The use of medicinal herbs for medical purposes should be encouraged in society."

The president noted that, today, the industrialized countries are thinking about making use of midicinal herbs and most of the world's medical authorities have approved of applying such herbs.

The use of medicinal herbs should not be regarded as a backward move but it has to be viewed as a retrun to the rich resources the Almighty God has bestowed on the mankind, the president added.

Referring to the need for close cooperation between universities and the Construction Jihad Ministry in this area, the president said that the Construction Jihad has identified over 1,000 varieties of medicinal herbs and is planning to revive those varieties which are going to be wiped out from surface of the earth.

In making use of medicinal herbs the most advanced scientific standards should be observed, Rafsanjani said, adding that they can be prepared in the form of tablets, capsules and syrups bearing a cautionary notice concerning their side-effects.

Head of the Medical Sciences Academy, Dr. Iraj Fazel, told the president and his entourage that the academy has estabished relations with 41 world academies, particularly, with those in Islamic countries on exchange of information.

Some 16 research projects including establishing links with internet, holding scientific gatherings and encouraging young researchers are among the activities of the Medical Sciences Academy, Fazel added.

Foreign Minister and head of the Islamic and traditional medicine department of the acadamy, Ali Akbar Velayati, said that efforts to revive the traditional medicine and building confidence in medical students are the main activities of the department.

(IRNA)

Conservative Government Threatens Unions With Tougher Curbs

LONDON — In the wake of serious industrial disruption this summer in Britain, the Conservative government warned unions on Tuesday that it might impose tough new curbs on trade union power, to protect essential public services.

The day after drivers' unions on the London underground staged their third joint strike, causing traffic chaos yet again in the British capital, Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang said the government was considering a range of measures to make strikes harder in essential public services.

Unions, who were stripped of much of their power under Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s, could face the removal or weakening of their immunity from legal action for damages caused by lawful strikes, he warned.

Lang said the government wanted to build on Thatcher's trade union legislation, which made secret ballots mandatory for industrial action, outlawed sympathy strikes, and ended the "closed shop" which had allowed trade unions to bar non-members from working in a particular industry.

"I think the time may well have come to take one further step along that road to get the balance right between the public interest and the interest of individuals," he told BBC radio.

"I think there is really no need at this stage in the 20th century for the nation to be brought to a halt by one narrow self-serving interest in a monopoly public service," the minister added.

(AFP)

Bangladeshis Observe Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The Bangladesh community in Tehran solemnly observed Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi Monday, July 29, 1996, a press release faxed yesterday said.

Held at the chancery, the ceremony was attended by Bangladesh Ambassador to Iran, Syed Muazzem Ali, embassy officials, Bangladeshi nationals and their families.

The life of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) was discussed and special prayers were offered for the peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh and the entire Islamic Ummah.

Pro-Indian Activists Announce Poll Boycott

SRINAGAR, India – Pro-Indian Muslim activists Tuesday announced a boycott of upcoming legislative elections in the strife-torn Indian state of Kashmir, saying the ballot would be marred by fraud.

"Elections were rigged (before) and the September elections are going to be rigged again," Javed Shah, chairman of the Awami League, told a news conference here.

"We have had a bitter experience and we don't want to see more bloodshed," he said. "In the coming elections, we will have no role ... we will not support anyone."

Shah, a candidate in Kashmir's May general elections, the first in the state in seven years, was soundly defeated in the polls. He blamed his loss on rigging, and charged officials with embezzling huge amoimts of money from election funds.

"We had demanded a judicial inquiry ... misappropriation of funds is taking place in Kashmir. Government officers are intoxicated with power and don't want normalcy in the state," added league general-secretary Mir Niazi.

The poll boycott came a day after two pro-India Muslim activists outfits joined forces to fight rival groups espousing either freedom for the Himalayan territory or a merger with Pakistan.

Renegade activist leader Kuka Parray, who heads the Ikwan-ul-Muslimoon group, announced a merger with the Jammu and Kashmir Ikhwan of south Kashmir late Monday near Srinagar, the state summer capital.

Parray said the new group would launch a search for four westerners abducted in July by the Al-Faran group, which had demanded the release of 15 detained Muslim activists in exchange for their freedom. *(AFP)*

Turkish Troops Kill 16 Kurds

ANKARA (AFP) — Government troops killed 16 separatist rebel Kurds in three separate clashes in southeastern Turkey, an official statement said Tuesday.

The clashes between the troops and fighters from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) recently took place in the provinces of Van, Hakkari and Sirnak, the statement by the regional governer of southeastern Turkey said.

It did not specify the exact dates of the clashes and whether or not there were casualties among the security forces.

More than 21,000 people have been killed in violence in southeastern Turkey since 1984 when the PKK launched its armed campaign for a homeland.

(Contd from Pg. 2)

PRESIDENT'S...

ghan government to show it can reach understanding with other groups and opposition parties in Afghanistan, he added.

He also explained the attitude of Iranian officials toward regional and international developments.

President Rabbani, for his part, stressed that Iran's constant attention to the problems of Afghanistan is a major factor in restoring peace and stability to Afghanistan.

The Afghan president also said that the Islamic government of Afghanistan is ready to reach understanding with opposition groups, as an inevitable measure to establish peace in the war-torn country.

The Iranian official also had a separate meeting with commander of Afghan Armed Forces, Ahmad Shah Masood. The two discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and that country's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the meeting, Shah Masood praised Iran for its efforts to bring peace to the region, noting that the continuation of such endeavors is a must for restoring peace and stability to Afghanistan.

He said that the countries trying to bring peace to Afghanistan are the true friends of the Afghan people.

Expressing optimism about the future of his country, the commander commented that problems in Afghanistan will be overcome one by one in the wake of cooperation between the govenment and the people.

Boroujerdi, in turn, said that Iran will continue its efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan and help it with its reconstruction, as it had previously stood side by side with its Muslim brothers during the hard years of Jihad. *(IRNA)*

Appeals Court Rejects Challenge to Tribunal

ROME — A military appeals court on Tuesday rejected a motion challenging the competence of the tribunal trying former SS officer Erich Priebke here on charges of massacring 335 Italian civilians.

The motion was filed Monday by lawyers for the plaintiffs, who have argued that Tribunal President Agostino Quistelli is biased in favour of Priebke. It was the second such challenge since the trial opened on May 8.

Priebke, 83, is accused of taking part in the killings in the Ardeatine Caves, south of Rome, during which 335 Italians, including 75 Jews were killed on March 24, 1944, in reprisal for an Italian resistance attack in which 33 German SS troops died.

The ruling came as Priebke's attorney began his closing argument in the case making it clear he would ask for his client's acquittal.

After paying homage to the victims of the massacre, Attorney Velio di Rezze told the court: "I will call for Priebke's acquittal because the reprisal was legitimate and, according to article 40 of the (military) code, it was compulsory to obey orders considered legitimate."

"I will also argue that there were mitigating circumstances because he was influenced by a superior to carry out this act," he continued.

Priebke, was extradited from Argentina in November 1995 to face trial here, and is being held in custody in Rome's military prison.

Lawyers for the families of victims of the massacre have asked that he be sentenced to life in prison.

(AFP)

Saudi Defense Minister to Visit Yemen

DUBAI – Saudi Arabia's Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn Abdel Aziz will visit Yemen next month to try to complete the mending of fences between the two Arab neighbors, a Yemeni minister said in remarks published Tuesday.

"The joint high Saudi-Yemeni committee will meet in San'a during the second half of August to give new impetus to the work of the committees tasked with demarcating the borders," Interior Minister Hussein Mohammad Arab told the London-based Arabic daily *Al-Hayat*.

The joint committee is chaired by Prince Sultan and Yemeni speaker of Parliament Sheikh Abdallah al-Ahmar.

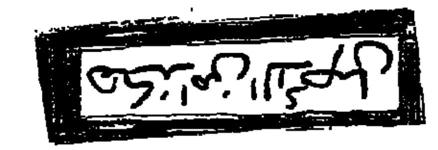
Prince Sultan said he would visit Yemen to remove obstacles blocking normalization of relations between the two countries, which have agreed to end a 60-year-old border conflict.

Saudi Arabia and Yemen agreed to demarcate the border after a declaration of principles in February last year in which San'a gave up its claim to the border provinces of Najran, Assir et Jizan, which Riyadh acquired in 1934.

Colonel Arab also said that he had discussed "the return of Yemeni workers to Saudi Arabia" during his talks with Saudi leaders in Jeddah this past week, but he did not say how many.

Saudi Arabia suspended its financial aid to Yemen and expelled some 800,000 Yemeni workers when it accused Yemeni leaders of siding with Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Relations took a turn for the worse when Sanaa accused Riyadh of supporting south Yemeni forces in the 1994 civil war. *(AFP)*



Atlanta Bomb Victim's Home Burgled

ATLANTA — Thieves burgled the home of Atlanta bomb victim Alice Hawthorne while her husband cared for their critically ill daughter, police announced Monday.

John Hawthorne was at a hospital in Atlanta watching over his daughter Fallon and making arrangements for the funeral of his wife when the thieves ransacked the family home in Albany, Georgia on Sunday.

The 44-year-old woman was one of two deaths left by Saturday's bomb that also injured 112 people. (AFP)

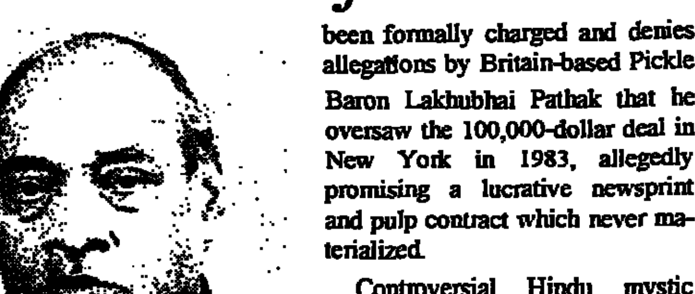
Thais Pray to Giant Mushrooms for Luck in Life

BANGKOK — Three giant mushrooms which sprouted in Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa's home province have been attracting devotees who believe they can bring good fortune, a Thai daily reported Monday.

People have come from all over Suphanburi Province to offer prayers and incense before the mushrooms, the Thai-language daily News said. Thais believe that rare things may herald good luck generally, and especially in the lottery.

Each of the mushrooms is 35 centimeters (14 inches) tall and 40-48 centimeters (16-19 inches) across the cap. (AFP)

Indian Court Turns Down Rao's Plea to Be Dropped as Co-Defendant



NEW DELH — An Indian court Tuesday turned down a plea by former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to be dropped as co-defendant in a 100,000-dollar cheating case filed by an expatriate Indian millionaire.

Delhi High Court Judge S.K. Mahajan said he found no merit in Rao's petition. Rao had earlier been summoned to appear before a lower court in connection with the case on Friday.

Mahajan said chief metropolitan magistrate Prem Kumar's summons to the embattled 75-year-old leader was justified.

"In my view, it cannot be said that there was no material before the chief metropolitan magistrate to come to a prima facie finding about the complicity of the petitioner in the commission of the offence for which he has been summoned," he said.

"The said order cannot be set aside in my jurisdiction," Mahajan said. "I do not see any reason to interfere with the order and the petition is, accordingly, dismissed."

The former premier has not been formally charged and denies allegations by Britain-based Pickle Baron Lakhubhai Pathak that he oversaw the 100,000-dollar deal in New York in 1983, allegedly promising a lucrative newsprint and pulp contract which never materialized.

Controversial Hindu mystic Chandraswami and his associate Kailash Nath Aggarwal were jailed in May in connection with the case after being charged with criminal conspiracy and fraud.

Rao's lawyer Kapil Sibal earlier said he was willing to file an affidavit in court stating he was not in New York on December 23-24, 1983, when the deal was finalized, according to Pathak. (AFP)



SAN MARCOS DE TARRAZU, Costa Rica (July 29): Rescue workers work to find the eight remaining bodies of a family of eleven that were crushed to death by a landslide as they were to evacuate their house, in San Marcos de Tarrazu 74 km south of San Jose, Costa Rica. The landslide was due to the rains caused by hurricane Cesar. 21 people have been killed and about 30 other assumed lost after unprecedented floods in the whole of Costa Rica. a state of emergency, has been declared in the country. (AFP PHOTO)

Bomb Explodes in Algiers Suburb

ALGIERS — A home-made bomb went off in a busy cafe in west Algiers on Tuesday, close to the national security headquarters, killing one person and leaving four others injured, security officials said.

The dead man was identified as the cafe's owner.

"I saw blood splattered on the columns in the arcade where the cafe is situated and a lot of ambulances rushed towards the scene," a witness told AFP.

"Security services immediately cordoned off the area and moved passers-by away," he added.

The blast was "quite powerful," another witness said, adding that there must be "many victims."

The bomb exploded in a cafe in the Bab el Oued district, only a few hundred meters (yards) from the national security headquarters. (AFP)

Military Issues "Shoot on the Spot" Orders Against Rioters

JAKARTA — Jakarta's military commander Tuesday ordered troops to shoot troublemakers "on the spot" in order to control any further unrest in the city, the official Antara news agency reported.

"The 'shoot on the spot' order is to be immediately given should they (the troublemakers) start efforts to disturb security," Military Commander Major General Sutiyoso Sutiyoso was quoted as saying.

He warned that the authorities' tolerance had "limits."

Sutiyoso, speaking to reporters after an official function here with President Suharto, said all members of the security forces "are carrying weapons" in order to tackle any further unrest.

The city on Tuesday remained crippled by multiple bomb threats in the central business and shopping districts and amid rife, though unfounded, rumours of fresh unrest in Chinatown. (AFP)

Mongolia's First Democrat Government Announced

ULAN BATOR — After a week-long struggle with the ousted Communist Party, Mongolia's first democrat prime minister has finally nominated his government.

Enkhsaikhan, elected as prime minister on July 19, announced his new cabinet in front of the Great Hural, Mongolia's Parliament, on Monday.

"I assure you that the new government will be decisive and resolute," he told the house, according to legislators present. (AFP)

61 Bodies of Missing Fishermen Recovered

DHAKA — Rescue teams in southern coastal areas of Bangladesh have recovered the bodies of 61 out of 132 fishermen reported missing in the Bay of Bengal after their trawlers were hit by a storm last week, local reports and police said Tuesday.

"So far 61 bodies have been recovered scattered along the coast," a local official said by telephone from southern Barisal district.

He said decomposed bodies were slowly turning up on the coast.

A radio report said 17 trawlers carrying the fishermen went missing in a 24-hour period beginning Thursday night during a seasonal storm.

The official BSS news agency, quoting police, said the bodies were recovered after extensive searches during the past three days along the coastal belt and rescuers were still looking for the 60 listed as missing.

Eleven men were rescued after 15 hours in the turbulent sea, the agency said.

Fishermen are regularly the victims of Bangladeshi seasonal storms. In June, 12 fishermen died when two boats capsized in a storm in the same vicinity. In May, a severe cyclonic storm flooded several coastal villages, swept away a girl an caused widespread crop losses. (AFP)

Buyoya Heads to OAU Summit

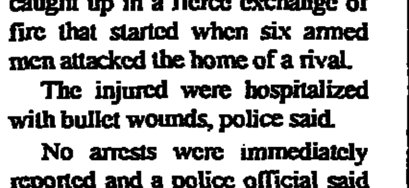
BUJUMBURA — Burundi's new military leader Pierre Buyoya left the capital Bujumbura on Tuesday for an Organization of African Unity summit in Tanzania, state radio said.

The move came despite an earlier statement from the OAU that Buyoya, who ousted Burundi's Hutu president in a coup last week, would not be welcome at the parley.

Last week OAU spokesman Ibrahim Dagash, asked who would represent Burundi at the Arusha summit, said: "Definitely not the new government."

According to another report, Buyoya met with ousted President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya on Sunday, four days after a military-backed coup, the U.S. Embassy said Tuesday. (AFP)

10 Killed in Shootout Between Rival Groups in Lahore



LAHORE, Pakistan — Ten people, including a boy aged eight, were killed in crossfire and 25 were injured when rival gangs staged a firefight here, police said Tuesday.

The shootout occurred in a car parts market around midnight Monday as food was being distributed for the poor to mark the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad (S).

Police said the casualties were caught up in a fierce exchange of fire that started when six armed men attacked the home of a rival.

The injured were hospitalized with bullet wounds, police said.

No arrests were immediately reported and a police official said a hunt was underway.

Pakistanis celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad with devotional meetings and processions. (AFP)



SHINNECOCK, NY, United States (July 29): A piece of TWA flight 800, the Boeing 747 jetliner that crashed into the ocean off the coast of Long Island July 17, is removed from a navy barge and loaded onto a truck at the Coast Guard Station at Shinnecock, New York. Debris continues to be brought in from salvage efforts on the ocean floor. The wreckage is taken to a nearby airport hangar for further investigation. (AFP PHOTO)

Road Transport Strike Paralyzes Life in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — Public transport operators nationwide went on strike in Pakistan Tuesday, paralyzing transportation and stranding commuters throughout the country.

The operators were demanding withdraw of new transport-related taxes included in the national budget announced by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government in June.

Residents reported chaos as people thronged idle bus stands and transport terminals in cities and towns across the country.

Attendance in government offices and private establishments was thin as private cars and a fewer number of taxis, which were said to be overcharging passengers, providing the only transportation.

"There is a total shutdown of public transport in protest against the unjust taxes," said a transport operators' spokesman in Lahore, capital of central Punjab Province.

Reports of strikes were also received from southern Sindh region, southwestern Baluchistan and the northwest frontier province bordering Afghanistan. (AFP)

Dubai Bets on Business Boom From Iraq's Oil-for-Food Deal

DUBAI — Dubai, the gulf's trade hub, expects a boom in business when Iraq gets the green light to start buying food and medicine under its oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

Officials and company presidents told AFP that Dubai will play a major role as a way station for goods sent to Iraq.

"Instead of making orders (elsewhere) and waiting for them, they will be able to take direct delivery of the goods" from Dubai, said Ahmad al-Banna, director of research at the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"You find all kinds of goods in Dubai and at competitive prices. Dubai traders import in large quantities," Banna said. In 1995, around 20 billion dollars in non-oil goods were imported, exported or re-exported from Dubai.

Dubai, one of the seven member states of the United Arab Emirates, "has huge warehouses, ports and an airport allowing it to meet the demands of neighboring countries," he said.

"In the past there was trade between Iraq and Dubai and these ties will, without doubt, be reestablished if there is a total or partial lifting of the embargo" imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he said.

Iraq struck a deal with the United Nations on May 20 allowing it to export two billion dollars worth of oil in return for badly needed food and medicine but under strict international controls which are still being worked out.

One-third of the proceeds will finance UN operations in Iraq and a UN fund to provide war reparations.

Iraq has already contacted Dubai about the easing of the embargo, renting two tug boats from the Dubai-based Mubarak shipping company needed to help ships move through the main Iraqi ports at Umm Qasr and Basra.

"The two tugs have arrived in Iraq," according to the company's director, Jumaa Mubarak, who added that his firm was "reedy to transport goods to this country when the (oil-for-food) accord is finalized."

He said that Dubai-based transport companies will have a big role to play in shipping goods to Iraq even if the imports come from other cities, since the emirate is the regional hub for the world's freighters.

Dubai and its free zone at Jebel Ali, the largest in the Middle East, serve other countries in the region with large cargo ships and traditional wooden dhows.

This suits Iraq which "lacks transfer facilities in its ports," which were damaged during the 1991 gulf war and deprived of equipment because of the embargo, Jumaa said.

Iraqi merchants have continued to visit Dubai to buy goods which are exempt from the UN embargo. (AFP)

German Firm Signs Deal for Three Power Plants in Bosnia

SARAJEVO — A German power company signed a preliminary agreement Monday with a Bosnian electric power agency to construct three power stations, media reported Monday.

Germany is due to invest 300 million dollars in the project to build two hydro-power plants and one thermo-electric station, a Sarajevo-based news agency said.

One of the hydro-power plants will be on the river Drina in east Bosnia near the government-held Gorazde enclave. The others will be near Bihac, northwest Bosnia.

Representatives from Elektroprivreda, one of Bosnia's three power companies, and the German Windrose Firm signed the preliminary accord, the agency said. Work is expected to start "within the next year," the agency added. (AFP)

Apparent Setback Snags U.S., Japan Semiconductor Talks

VANCOUVER — After early signs of progress, talks between Japan and the United States over a new access agreement to the lucrative Japanese semiconductor market apparently stalled Monday.

U.S. chief negotiator Ira Shapiro and Japan's Vice Minister for Trade and Industry Yoshihiro Sakamoto spent about two hours together Monday afternoon, in a downtown hotel, and both reported no progress.

Significantly, unlike Sunday evening when the two men met reporters together to report they thought they were making progress, Sakamoto and Shapiro left their meeting room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel separately after Monday's session.

With U.S. acting trade representative Charlene Barshefksy and Japanese Trade and Industry Minister Shunpei Tsukahara en route for Vancouver for ministerial level discussions, Shapiro said: "We have quite a lot to report (to the ministers), although much of it is clarifying and defining differences which remain substantial."

Asked what the next step would be, Shapiro replied: "We are expecting new ideas from Japan."

Sakamoto told reporters: "I am not in a position to make a comment on the progress apart from saying that we have much work to be done on both sides."

Ironically, there seemed to be some hope of a new push for an agreement on access to the insurance industry, the subject of talks which ended without agreement on Saturday.

Shapiro said that one of the first things Barshefsky would do on arriving in Vancouver would be to have a telephone conversation with Japanese Finance Minister Wataru Kubo on the insurance issue.

There have been unconfirmed reports that Kubo planned to fly to Vancouver to meet with Barshefsky on Thursday.

Meanwhile there was mystery surrounding a delegation from the 15-nation European Union.

The delegation met with U.S. officials Monday but refused to meet reporters and declined to say where they could be contacted. Officials in the European Union's Executive Commission offices in Ottawa and Washington claimed not to know where the delegation, or its leader Peter Carl, was staying.

But the European Union could be key to breaking the semiconductor stalemate between Tokyo and Washington.

Japan has maintained its opposition to renewing a 10-year-old market access agreement with the United States. This agreement, which had a target for foreign suppliers of 20 percent of the Japanese market, expires on Wednesday.

Tokyo says there is no need to replace the agreement because foreign suppliers now have 30 percent of the Japanese domestic market; Washington counters that it is too early to judge the scheme a success.

Tokyo is also opposed to any new bilateral deal saying that any agreement must be multilateral. (AFP)

Bull Computer Group Reports Sharply Higher Loss

PARIS — Computer group Bull suffered a sharply higher consolidated net loss in the first half of 612 million francs (U.S.$121.7 million) against a shortfall of 125 million francs in the year-earlier half, the group announced on Monday.

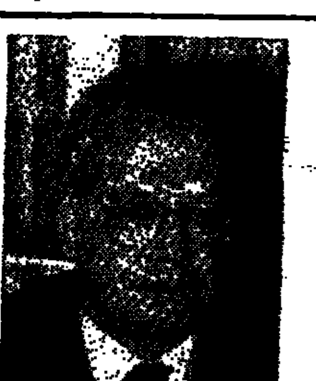
Sales for the six months for the group, from which the government is gradually withdrawing, came to 11.40 billion francs, down 3.6 percent on a comparable consolidation basis, the announcement said.

"Bull is maintaining its 1996 goal of improving its net result from 1995, when it was 306 million francs", the announcement said.

It said that, excluding the personal computer business and PC-linked activities, Bull turnover was up by 3.3 percent in the first half, year on year, while it made a net profit of 49 million francs. (AFP)

ITU's Secretary General Elaborates on ...

Humanity expects you to pursue the right path you have commenced.



Dr. Pekka Tarjanne, ITU secretary general

In the 3rd Post and Telecommunications Ministerial Meeting the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) member states, Dr. Pekka Tarjanne, secretary general of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) was one of the respected guests of the meetings.

As an expert in international telecommunications affairs, he visited some telecommunications complexes in Tehran and Isfahan and elaborated on the telecommunications networks of Iran and the world of Islam.

It should be noted that observing the developments of Iranian telecommunications systems was as valuable as attending the meeting, for a man of high knowledge in telecommunications industry — Dr. Pekka Tarjanne.

During his two-day visit in Iran, he visited fiber optics production line, solar electricity along with Islamic Republic Telecommunications Complex in Isfahan, accompanied by the infatigable Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, Engineer Gharazi. He was warmly welcomed by the governor general of the city.

Referring to the fast couriers in ancient Persia, Pekka Tarjanne termed Iran as the founder of inter-state communications with a rich ancient civilization behind.



The inauguration ceremony of the Third OIC Telecommunications Ministerial Meeting was attended by President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

At present there is a neck and neck competition among advanced and developing countries. Utilizing telecommunications tools for fast transformation of the data are winning factors for economic-social priorities in the competitions.

* Development of the post, telecommunications and frequency networks by Iran in West Asia has well paved the way for the links with other international telecommunications networks.

Dr. Pekka Tarjanne went on to say the need for the development of communications facilities and bilateral and multilateral cooperations of OIC member states has been highlighted in the two previous sessions.

He added the main factor for promotion of the economic-commercial cooperations among the Islamic countries is the rapid development of post and telecommunications industry.

To achieve self-sufficiency and data super highways strategies, the conference paves the way for exchange of views, joint investment, application of post and telecommunications training facilities, exchange of experiences, data gathering on equipment manufacturing capabilities and transfer of technology among member states.

The secretary general later said: By joint execution of the giant fiber-optic project with the Central Asian states, which is to revive the ancient Silk Road, Iran has taken effective steps in the field. Also the Islamic Republic of Iran in Western Asia is one of the most active member states of the OIC, who has expanded post, telecommunications and frequency networks to pave the way for the link with other telecommunications networks of the world.

Referring to the fact that mankind union is mostly fulfilled by setting communications — prime concern of the ITU — Tarjanne said: ITU and OIC conferences and sessions are both aimed at necessitating the use of state-of-the-art technology, balancing the level of communications promotion in Islamic countries, enhancing the development rate and transforming low-penetration factor countries to high-penetration factor holders.

Such goals may be achieved by creating solidarity among countries through active participation of the member states.

Secretary general of the International Telecommunications Union finally appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iranian Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telecommunications, Engineer. Gharazi, for warmly hosting the 3rd OIC meeting. He expressed hope that the present and past sessions of the organizations bear fruits in a way to picture a bright future for the regional and international telecommunications networks.

Furthermore Dr. Pekka Tarjanne attended a press conference to answer questions posed by reporters.

Asked to elaborate on the status of the Islamic Republic telecommunications in the world he said: First I should confess the Iranian telecommunications development has been amazing to me. I say bluntly. Iran has been one of the pioneers in the industry. I got it during my two-day visit in Tehran and Isfahan, where I observed some factories along with telecommunications complexes and centers.

He added the Islamic Republic of Iran has got its good stance in the industry and made a lot of improvements in the field. Iran faces no obstacle once it wants to train manpower.

Iran has had close collaborations with the International Telecommunications Union. That is why I asked Engineer Gharazi to accept the chairmanship of the coming meeting of the ITU, due to be held in October of the current year.

The next meeting will be on G.M.P.C.S which focuses on the problems and achievements of th



ITU secretary general appreciated Engineer Gharazi's efforts to promote telecommunication system of the country.

Iran can be a good model for other countries in this industry. For this reason, Iran should export its achievements to other countries, for which it will receive proper support from ITU.

He went on to say: It is my suggestion to establish a telecommunications training center in Iran for 52 member states of OIC. I also suggested the matter to Engineer Gharazi.

In the coming years telecommunications is the only solution to upcoming political, economic and social problems.

member states in the industry. His presence will be warmly welcomed by the secretary general.

The secretary general has inked in the commemoration notebook of the Islamic Republic Telecommunications Complex: Your achievements are not only admirable but also they can be good models for other countries. It is the expectation of the humanity from you to pursue the right path you have chosen. I wish you further success in constructing the infrastructure of the international data society infrastructures.

TV Programs

Wednesday Evening July 31

National Network. Channel 1:

12:30 Focus on Family
14:00 News
14:30 Focus on Family
15:00 Olympic Games
15:45 Kids Corner
16:30 News
17:00 Children's Program
18:00 Focus on IRI Army
18:25 Iran Tourism Exhibition
19:00 News
19:15 Addiction
19:45 Rural Festival
20:00 The Wave
20:31 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:40 Focus on Martyrs
20:50 Review of Day's Major News Stories
21:00 News
21:30 Sights & Sound
21:50 Summer of 1375
22:10 Commercials
22:20 Iranian TV Series
23:10 Unity Week
23:30 Focus on Sports

National Network. Channel 2:

13:13 Religious Program
13:30 Interlude
13:50 Weekly Talks
14:00 Iranian TV Series
15:00 Training Gymnastics
15:30 Teaching English
16:00 Preuniversity Courses
17:00 Sun's Lights
18:00 Children Program
19:00 We & Our Children
19:00 Iran in the Pats Year
20:00 Summer Program
20:30 Cultural, Scientific News
20:36 Call to Prayer (Azan)
21:00 Iranian TV Series
21:45 Thoughts
22:30 News
22:45 Notes of the Night
23:00 Nighttime Program
23:10 Interlude
30:30 Unity of Muslim World

National Network. Channel 3:

16:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
16:15 Freshness
17:00 Religious Program
17:30 Sports Program
18:15 Wrestling
19:00 For Tomorrow
19:30 The 2nd Season
19:45 Sports News
20:00 Developments in Cinema
20:10 Sports Roundup
20:36 Call to Prayer (Azan)
20:51 Sports Roundup
22:45 News (in English)

National Network. Tehran Channel:

17:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
17:15 Olympic Games
18:15 Advisors
18:30 Tehran News
18:45 In the City
19:00 Tehran's Economy
19:15 Another Kind
19:30 Tehran Districts
19:45 Medical Points
20:00 Commercial Program
20:20 The Alerts
20:36 Call to Prayer (Azan)
21:00 In the City
21:10 The 5th Look
21:45 Cultural Program
22:00 News
22:15 In the City
22:30 Travelling Cat
23:00 Olympic Games
23:30 Another Kind
23:40 Travelling
23:50 Sights & Sound

Thursday Morning, August 1

National Network. Channel 1:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
06:15 Good Morning Iran
09:10 Kids Corner
10:10 Iranian TV Series
11:00 Children Program
12:00 Unity Week
13:09 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network. Channel 2:

06:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
06:15 Muslim World's Unity
07:00 A New Day
07:45 Religious Program
08:15 Iran in the Past Year
08:30 Teaching Gymnastics
09:00 Teaching English
09:15 Preventing Accidents
10:00 Interlude
10:20 Kids Corner
11:00 Focus on Living (teaching requirements in life)
12:00 Summer Program
12:30 We & Our Children
13:09 Call to Prayer (Azan)

National Network. Channel 3:

07:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations from the Holy Qoran
07:45 Sports Program
08:00 Freshness
08:45 The Tops
09:00 Reflection
10:30 Speak to Me
10:45 The Youth (in Gorgan)
11:15 Interlude
11:40 Developments in Cinema

15th Wedding Anniversary -- a Month Before Divorce

LONDON – A month before their divorce takes effect, the 15th wedding anniversary of Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana passed by Monday without much fanfare, as newspapers resisted the temptation to publish photos of their nuptials.



On July 29, 1981, the couple made headlines throughout the world while television stations devoted hours to just another "wedding of the century."

Fifteen years later, the tabloid press, which usually follows the royal family's every move, decided to let it pass, and it was left up to television to mark the royal marriage anniversary.

The private television channel, Channel Four, followed the lives of nine couples married on the same day as the prince and princess, while the BBC devoted a documentary to Christina Hance, a Diana look-alike who for 10 years has made a living from her resemblance to the princess.

"Royal" news Monday consisted of Lady Sarah Chatto, niece of Queen Elizabeth II, and daughter of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, giving birth to her first child, a boy of 3.5 kilos whose Christian name has not yet been revealed.

Also, there was a story splashed on a front-page about Diana's brother, the Earl Spencer, who was named as the lover of a Cape Town model, Chantal Collopy, in her divorce documents.

On Monday, Charles spent the day in Wales, where he was meeting with a farmers' union, before attending the premiere of a film starring the Welshman Anthony Hopkins, called "August".

The office of the Prince of Wales announced in London the appointment of a new press secretary, Sandy Hanney, 44, the first woman to hold this post, succeeding Allan Percival.

Back from her French holidays, Diana is likely to be mulling over her past, as fresh revelations loom. If one is to believe the tabloid press, her former lover, Major James Hewitt, is about to sell her love letters to him.

This unchivalrous act is quite conceivable from a man who sold the story of his love affair with Diana to journalist Anna Pasternak, who wrote a book about it called "Princess in Love", earning Hewitt the name of "Rat".

Separated for three and a half years, Charles and Diana are awaiting the final pronouncement of their divorce, due on August 28, to draw a line behind their 15 years of fraught matrimony.

Diana has chosen to replace her press attach and personal secretary, who have both left her, with a man, according to the *Sunday Press*.

David Wynne, a dashing 28-year-old bachelor, who works in Art Sponsorship, will be ap-



pointed as her chief advisor, if inquiries about his private life do not unearth anything untoward, the *Mail* on Sunday wrote.

Wynne could then help develop a new image for Diana, who is determined to stay under the media spotlight.

With a divorce settlement of 15 £million ($23 million), even if she has lost her royal title, Diana will not have the same money problems as another famous divorcee, her former sister-in-law Fergie.

To help ends meet, the former Sarah Ferguson has agreed to attend a dinner in Melbourne, to launch several television stations for media mogul Rupert Murdoch. *(AFP)*

Americans Over 45 Are Exercising More

WASHINGTON — Americans over 45 are off the couch and exercising more, a new survey shows.

According to the American sports data poll, the number of people over 55 who are members at fitness clubs more than doubled between 1988 and 1995, from 1.1 million to 2.7 million.

For the same period club members aged 45-54 were up 61 percent, from 1.8 million to 2.9 million.

Nearly 30 percent of Americans over 55 practice some sport more than 100 times a year, a higher rate than any other age range. More than half of them named fitness walking as their favorite sport. *(AFP)*

German, Dutch Tourists in Seaside Brawls

LLORET DE MAR, Spain – Dozens of Dutch and German tourists fought a running battle Monday at the popular Mediterranean resort of Lloret de Mar in northeastern Spain, police said.

A German tourist was injured and three Dutchmen, aged between 18 and 20, were arrested in the clashes after the chanting of national anthems by the rival groups degenerated into exchanges of insults and blows.

Last week up to 300 German, Dutch, Italian and British youths engaged in brawls at Lloret de Mar, requiring the intervention of anti-riot police. *(AFP)*

Residents Resist Demolition of Homes

HONG KONG – At least three people were injured and four arrested Tuesday as riot police broke through makeshift barricades to help housing officials evict residents from a controversial pro-Taiwan enclave.

Some 100 protesters, residents or former residents of the tiny ramshackle enclave of Rennie's Hill scuffled with police and officials attempting to clear the Chinese Nationalist village for redevelopment.

While some of the protesters oppose the clearance completely, others are holding out for higher compensation.

"We will not give up until we are fully compensated," said Choi Kong, one of the protesters.

One man was injured when he jumped from the roof of a stone hut. The man and a woman protester required hospital treatment, while a police officer was slightly injured, a police spokesman said.

Four others were arrested as anti-riot police in full gear broke through a barricade of propane gas cylinders and other material, put in place pre-dawn to block the path of the government demolition team, witnesses said.

Police took action after negotiations with village representatives broke down. Many of the protesters were wearing yellow head and armbands.

Police beefed up security in the area, deploying some 600 officers, including marine police.

Rennie's Mill, marked for redevelopment, is a remnant of the bitter civil war in China which resulted in the routing of the Nationalists by the Communists in 1949.

Most of the vanquished Nationalists fled to Taiwan, while some remnants of Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang Army ended up at Rennie's Hill.

China has made it clear it will not tolerate the settlement on the Kowloon Peninsula's Junk Bay after it resumes sovereignty over Hong Kong next July.

The protesters, most of whom have already moved out of the village on the southern tip of Kowloon Peninsula, assembled at the road leading to the enclave built on hillslopes in the pre-dawn hours, setting up posters and banners protesting against the demolition.

The residents claim the government is breaking a promise made in 1961 that they could stay in perpetuity. A court in June called on the government to increase compensation terms, but did not specify new terms and no agreement has been reached.

At its peak, Rennie's Hill was home for 20,000 people. Most of the remaining 200 residents were forced out of their home over the weekend with the government cut off water and power supplies, and discontinued the ferry service to Hong Kong island. There are no roads to the enclave.

Meanwhile, according to another AFP report from Hong Kong, Tung Chee-Hwa, a leading contender to head the Hong Kong government after the territory returns to Chinese rule next year, has quietly set up a think-tank to formulate his political platform, it was reported Tuesday.

Tung, 58, is widely expected to announce his candidacy to the post of chief executive at the head of the Special Administrative Region (SAR), as Hong Kong will be known after the handover next July.

The independent Hong Kong *Economic Times* said tung had formed the think-tank to promulgate his views on the territory's 10-year development and strategy after 1997.

The report, quoting anonymous sources, said Tung had informed high-level officials in Beijing of his wish to run for the post and both sides had reached "an understanding."

The sources said that Tung's political views had always been "pro-business and conservative."

The paper has previously said Tung, currently the deputy director of China-formed Preparatory Committee handling the setting up of post-1997 SAR government, will announce his decision to run for the post in late August.

Tung quit Governor Chris Patten's advisory body, the Executive Council, on June 3 in a move widely seen as a prelude for a tilt at the SAR chief executive.

Beijing's Preparatory Committee will form a 400-member electoral college in October to select the post-1997 chief executive. *(AFP)*

Vultures on the Dinner Table

ABUJA – Where did Nigeria's famous vultures go? Ask the cook.

It appears the great scavenger bird has fallen prey to a bit of local human scavenging.

Vultures, once in their hundreds in Abuja, economic capital of Nigeria, are now almost completely extinct as they find their way on the dining table.

"When we came to Abuja 10 years ago vultures walked about freely on the streets and fields, but now, you can hardly see any of these birds here," one woman told AFP.

Among some cultures in Nigeria, especially the Yoruba (west) and Ibo (east), it is a taboo to kill or eat a vulture. But not among the high-livers of Abuja.

At the beginning of this year, it was discovered that vultures were being killed, packaged and sold freely in one of the big markets as chicken.

Suspicions were aroused when shoppers noticed that the trussed legs and wings were black, different from what you'd expect from a chicken.

Some restaurants in the Nigerian capital are also suspected of having sold vultures to their customers as "chicken pepper soup," a popular local dish.

It is not yet known if the authorities here are doing anything to prevent the total extinction of the birds in the Nigerian capital, as the vulture culture takes off.

Meanwhile the city's cooks are out there circling, waiting for their prey... *(AFP)*

TEHRAN TIMES

What We Know Now About Melatonin

MELATONIN has been getting enormous media attention, particularly since publication last year of The Melatonin Miracle by Dr. William Regelson, professor of medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University, and Dr. Walter Pierpaoli, of the Biancalana-Masera Foundation for the Aged in Ancona, Italy. The book jacket trumpeted melatonin as "nature's Age-Reversing, Disease-Fighting, Sex-Enhancing Hormone." Newsweek called it "the hot sleeping pill, natural and cheap." And U.S. News & World Report asked if melatonin was a natural wonder drug.

Yes, say enthusiasts, claiming that a daily dose can slow aging, combat jet lag, protect against disease, help you sleep and even do wonders for your sex life.

Millions of Americans have bought into the melatonin frenzy, according to industry estimates. Available without a prescription from drug-and health-food stores, synthetic melatonin is relatively inexpensive (under $10 for 60 three-milligram capsules, a supposed two-month supply). Source Naturals Of Scotts Valley, Calif., a major supplier, sold ten million bottles in 1995- 20 times the number sold the year before.

Scientist say that some of melatonin's benefits may be real. But the most grandiose claims are greeted skeptically-even by some who have devoted their careers to melatonin research. So what should you believe?

Master conductor? Until about 30 years ago, the brain's pea-size pineal glands was a mystery. Many thought it was simply left over from an earlier stage of evolution, as the appendix is. Then in 1963 researchers at the National Institutes of Health discovered that the pineal was an active part of the endocrine system, producing the hormone melatonin.

Researchers noticed that melatonin was produced primarily in darkness. When dusk comes, the pineal begins pumping out the hormone, peaking during deepest sleep, about 2 a.m. With the first daylight, secretion slows dramatically.

Melatonin production decreases with age. The pineal is largest during youth; with age, it calcifies. Melatonin circulating in the body drops as a result. By one's 70s, the amount may be scarcely detectable.

Regelson, co-author of The Melatonin Miracle, believes melatonin not only tells us when to sleep and wake up, also orchestrates when we grow up, procreate and go into decline. "The pineal is like a symphony conductor," he says. By secreting or withholding melatonin, he continues, the pineal cues all the other glands to join in life's symphony. However, some argue that endocrine coordination is from the hypothalamus and the pituitary (once known as the master gland). This combination influences growth, reproduction and energy.

Mood enhancer? Californian Jean Coloretti, 54, insists she was "rarin to go" after she took melatonin to boost her energy. But personal "feel good" stories are the only evidence that melatonin can change mood or behavior.

In fact, Dr. Thomas Wehr of the National Institute of Mental Health believes that we don't yet know if melatonin affects depression. He notes that while melatonin levels in normal women change with the seasons, women with seasonal affective disorder (SAD) have melatonin that does not consistently do so. Perhaps this failure to change represents a failure of normal physiological adaptation to winter. This condition might then give rise to winter depression. Researchers know that exposing SAD patients to extended periods of artificial light can reduce symptoms, but Wehr isn't sure if melatonin suppression has a role.

Sleep aid? A tiny amount of melatonin taken at night calms most people. Moreover, melatonin sleep is said to be "natural" sleep, which comes in a few minutes and leaves no morning hangover.

Dr. Richard J. Wurtman of M.I.T. has been studying the effects of melatonin on sleep for more than 20 years and is hoping to market a melatonin sleeping aid. In one recent experiment, he gave tiny doses of melatonin -0.3 mg.- to a group of men and women. Compared to a placebo group, the test group fell asleep more quickly, slept with less tossing and turning, and awoke more rested.

But Wurtman cautions insomniacs against "self-medicating" themselves with melatonin. Pills sold in health-food stores may contain three or more milligrams of melatonin-ten times the amount given in Wurtman's experiments. The result of these larger doses could be a melatonin hangover, leaving the user drowsy during the day.

Body synchromizer? The evidence is solid that melatonin helps those who zip across time zones. Taking a small amount of the hormone "tricks the body clock into believing it's still dark", says Dr. Al Lewy of Oregon Health Sciences University, a pioneer in jet-lag studies. "You take it in the morning, and the body clock say, 'Hmm, dawn hasn't come yet.' Or, in the evening: 'Night has come early.'"

By taking a half-milligram of melatonin for the two days before a flight followed by another half-milligram on arrival, Lewy's experiments have shown, the body's adjustment time can be cut in half. In her research, Josephine Arendt, endocrinology professor at the University of Surrey, England, gave melatonin to some 500 transatlantic travelers. Jet-lag symptoms among the melatonin users were reduced by 60 percent.

Melatonin may also help people with erratic work shifts. Edie Cornell, for instance, a Stanford University Hospital emergency-room coordinator, works "cockeyed" weekly schedule-two night shift. He says melatonin "gets my crazy clock into sync."

Infection fighter? James Krueger, a physiologist at the University of Tennessee at Memphis, says that in test-tube experiments, melatonin has been found to increase the production of interleukin-1 (IL-1), an infection fighter. IL-1 mobilizes the body's defenses by stimulating production of disease-fighting T-cells and bringing on fever and sleep.

But Krueger warns: "That's a long way from saying what it does in humans." Even if melatonin helps fight disease, it may have a marginal role.

Cancer foe? Melatonin's backers claim the hormone is an antioxidant like Vitamins C and E and, like them, may help fight cancer. Here's the argument:

Living cells need oxygen to generate energy. Normally the oxygen is carried in stable molecules containing two oxygen atoms in which all the electrons are paired. But sometimes an unstable molecule occurs, called a free radical, which has one or more unpaired electrons. The free radical may pull an electron from another molecule in the body, causing a reaction leading to abnormal, potentially cancerous cells.

Antioxidants help the body scoop up free radicals before they cause harm. In studies by biologist Russel J. Reiter of the University of Texas at San Antonio, melatonin was a potential scavenger of free radicals. Reiter gave one group of rats melatonin; another group received none. Then both were given safrole, which causes cancer. The treated group had 60 to 70 percent less DNA damage than the untreated one.

The doses of melatonin Reiter used are huge, however — "higher than would ever naturally appear in human blood or tissue," says M.I.T.'s Wurtman. He adds, "In studies, melatonin has not been shown to have antioxidant effects on people."

As for claims that melatonin could help treat Parkinson's or Alzheimer's -- other diseases in which free radicals may play a part — even Reiter is doubtful. "This are complex disease," he says. "I doubt any single explanation can be found."

Safe contraceptive? According to Dr. Michael Cohen, scientific director of Applied Medical Research in Fairfax, Va., increased melatonin helps suppress the ovaries' production of estrogen and progesterone. Thus, eggs cannot mature and pregnancy cannot take place.

Applied Medical Research plans to begin clinical studies this year on B-Oval, a melatonin-based birth-control pill. B-Oval has already been tested in more than 1000 Dutch women over a five-year period. It has reportedly been just as successful in preventing pregnancy as commonly used birth-control pills.

(to be continued)

THOUGHT

THE art of life is to show your hand. There is no diplomacy like candor. You may lose by it now and then, but it will be a loss well-gained if you do. Nothing is so boring as having to keep up a deception .

E.V. Lucas English author

PRAYER

Noon 13:11
Evening 20:30
Dawn (tomorrow) 4:26
Sunrise (tomorrow) 6:13

TODAY IN HISTORY

1919 - Germany adopts Weimar constitution.

1926 - Afghanistan signs nonaggression pact with Soviet Union.

1956 - Britain and West Germany sign 10-year agreement on nuclear cooperation.

1962 - Britain agrees to establish wider Malaysian Federation.

1964 - U.S. Ranger 7 spacecraft transmits to Earth first closeup pictures of the Moon.

1971 - U.S. Apollo 15 astronauts take six and one-half hour ride on Moon in electric car.

1974 - Ceasefire agreement takes effect between Turkey and Greece in fighting on Cyprus.

1978 - Gunman shoots his way into Iraqi Embassy in Paris and holds hostages for several hours before surrendering to French police.

1986 - Britain's Cabinet unanimously supports Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's resistance to stiff sanctions against South Africa.

1988 - Pier jammed with thousands of festival travelers collapses at ferry terminal in northwest Malaysia, killing at least 30 people and injuring about 370.

1989 - Thousands of residents flee Beirut, Lebanon, as fierce shelling continues.

1990 - U.S. government panel approves use of gene therapy for first time in treatment of human disease.

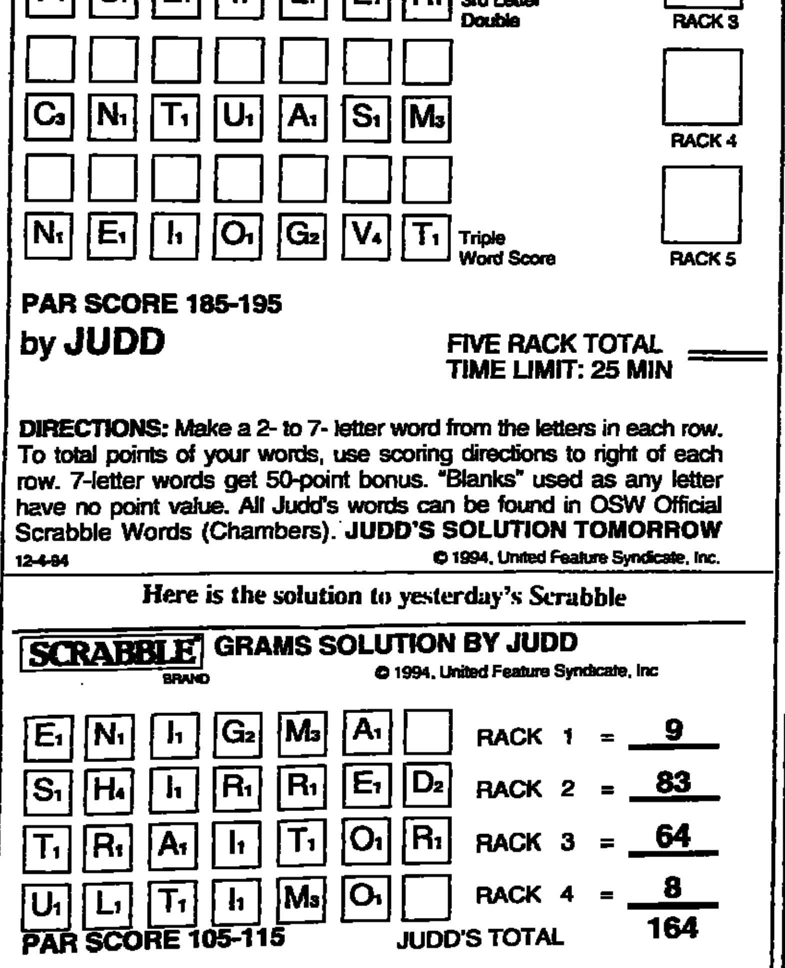
1991 - Presidents Bush and Gorbachev sign a long-range nuclear weapons reduction pact at Moscow summit.

1992 - A Thai Airways jetliner carrying 113 people crashes into a Himalayan Mountain minutes after the pilot reports a technical problem.

1994 - Security Council OKs possible U.S.-led invasion of Haiti.

SCRABBLE GRAMS

BRAND



PAR SCORE 185-195

by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

12-4-94

Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

E N I G M A	RACK 1 = 9
S H I R R E D	RACK 2 = 83
T R A I T O R	RACK 3 = 64
U L T I M O	RACK 4 = 8
JUDD'S TOTAL	164

PAR SCORE 105-115

12-3-94

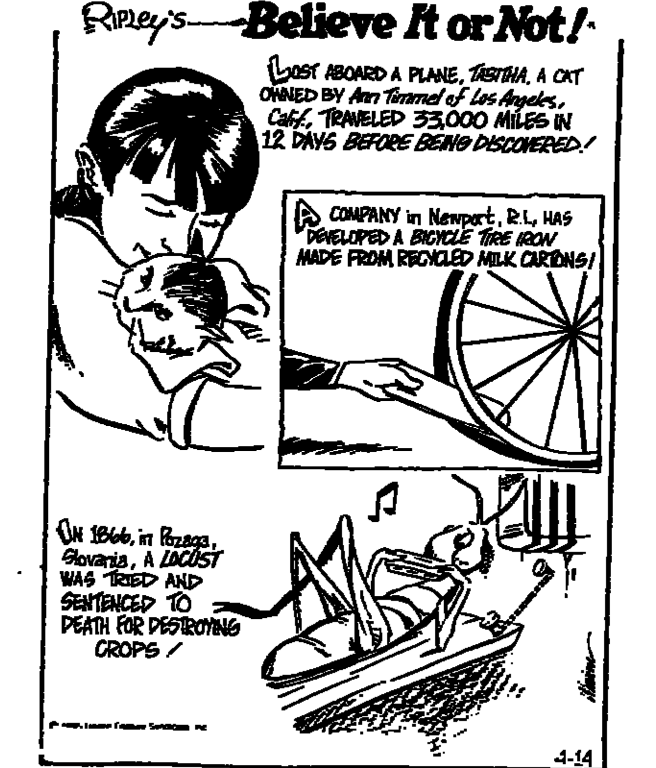
HEALTH CAPSULES®
by Michael A. Petti, M.D.

WILL TRIMMING VISIBLE FAT FROM MEAT GET RID OF THE CHOLESTEROL IN THE MEAT ?



IT GETS RID OF SATURATED FAT BUT NO SIGNIFICANT CHOLESTEROL BECAUSE CHOLESTEROL IS IN THE MEAT ITSELF.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.



















هكذا من الأجل

PAGE 9

S. African W... Shipped to B...

S. African Weapons Illegally Shipped to Burundi, Rwanda

JOHANNESBURG — Former apartheid agents and officials continue to ship illegal South African weapons to be used in conflict-torn Burundi and Rwanda, a report said.

Citing a South African arms investigation commission member and unnamed pilots and cargo crews, Johannesburg's *Sunday Independent* newspaper said arms, explosives and communications equipment are flowing out of South Africa and Angola to Hutu extremist rebels in Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire.

The newspaper said the trade is controlled by the same unnamed people who once sold weapons on the black market for South Africa's former white minority government.

"In the past few weeks, journalists in Angola have seen planeloads of weapons on Tajiki and Uzbeki cargo planes piloted by Russians," the newspaper said. "Many Russian pilots are employed by South African cargo companies that are said to be involved in the illicit trade."

Pilots often make stopovers in the northeastern Angolan diamond town of Saurimo, the *Sunday Independent* said.

Some weapons find their way to northern Zambia where they are shipped by boat on lake Tanganyika to Burundi and Zaire, the report said.

On Thursday, Burundi's government was taken over by Major Pierre Buyoya in a bloodless coup that has prompted fears of further bloodshed in the troubled country, where tens of thousands have died in recent years.

Hutu rebels continue to battle the Tutsi-dominated military, with hundreds of thousands of civilians forced to flee their homes.

In Rwanda, covert attacks on rural villages by Zaire-based Hutu rebels continue to take place more than two years after a massacre in which an estimated 500,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus died.

Rwanda's new Tutsi-dominated military has also been accused by the United Nations of conducting much smaller massacres against civilians.

The *Sunday Independent* quoted Laurie Nathan, a member of a South African Commission investigating arms sales, as saying the trade is linked to diamond smuggling in Angola and Zaire.

"The principal players are (rebels with Angola's UNITA Group), elements in Zaire and South African private companies and individuals," Nathan told the newspaper.

"The commission has received a growing amount of evidence of illegal arms shipments from South Africa over the last 12 to 18 months to other countries in Africa, including Angola, Zaire and Rwanda."

South Africa's government has not sanctioned the deals, which could involve hundreds of tons of rifles, handguns, explosives and two-way field radios, the report said.

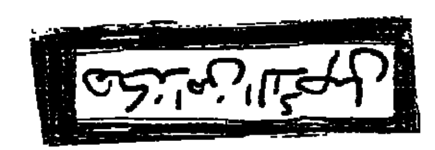
During the apartheid era, South Africa was a leading weapons supplier to Rwanda's old Hutu regime, selling $50.2 million worth of arms between 1990 and 1993.

The trade officially stopped following the 1994 Rwandan genocide, but the United States-based human rights watch said last year that South Africa continued to ship illegal weapons to Rwanda.

The group said several plane shipments of arms were flown from South Africa to the Kivu region in Zaire, where Rwandan Hutu militias are based.

South Africa tightened its arms export rules last year, and disallowed the state-owned military hardware company Armscor the right to issue export licenses.

The Rwandan government says at least 150 tons of small arms, grenades and explosives were ferried to the region on lake Tanganyika from a Zambian port. (AFP)



For Rapidly Developing Malaysia, Sky's the Limit

KUALA LUMPUR — If height is any symbol of success, Malaysia will soon, at least fancifully, be the pinnacle of achievement as home to Asia's tallest tower and, by year-end, to the world's tallest building.

Crowning Kuala Lumpur's rapidly-changing skyline at 421 meter (1,263 feet), Menara Kuala Lumpur last week began its reign as the tallest tower in Asia and the third-tallest in the world.

Mahathir's 15th year in office.

New monuments and hotels have mushroomed in the capital in the last two years as Malaysia moves toward the prime minister's goal of joining the world's fully industrialized nations by 2020.

Despite a burgeoning deficit in its trade and current account balances, Malaysia is pushing ahead with huge projects, some tagged as extravagant and wasteful by Mahathir's critics.

New monuments and hotels have mushroomed in the capital in the last two years as Malaysia moves toward the prime minister's goal of joining the world's fully industrialized nations by 2020.

"We want Menara Kuala Lumpur to be to Malaysia what the Eiffel Tower is to France," said Nasir Ithnin, general manager of Menara Kuala Lumpur SDN BHD.

Menara in 1991 was awarded a 15-year government concession to build and manage the telecommunications tower.

The 270 million-ringgit ($108 million) structure is a 90-10 joint venture between the national telephone company, Telekom Malaysia BHD, and Germany's Wayss and Freytag AG, the turnkey contractor.

Designed by local architecture firm Kumpulan Senireka SDN BHD, it features a glass dome within the tower designed to reflect Malaysia's Islamic heritage.

A stone's throw from the Menara, what will be the world's tallest building is already reaching for the sky.

At 451.9 meters, the 2.3-billion-ringgit ($920-million) Twin Tower owned by state oil company Petroliam Nasional BHD (PETRONAS) should top record-holder Chicago's Sears Towers by 8.9 meters when it opens by year-end.

But its reign as the world's tallest is expected to end when China's 457-meter Chongqing Tower is completed next year.

The 88-story Twin Towers, designed by U.S.-based architect Cesar Pelli, is seen not only as a flashy new address for PETRONAS, but also as a status symbol for fast-developing Malaysia.

"It's an achievement," said Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad recently.

Government officials last week cut into a special cake baked in the shape of the structure to celebrate

"We want Menara Kuala Lumpur to be to Malaysia what the Eiffel Tower is to France," says Nasir Ithnin. Will they succeed?

About 64 kilometers (40 miles) south of the capital, the government is spending 20.09 billion ringgit ($8.0 billion) on a federal administrative metropolis for the relocation of state ministries.

Due for completion in 2005, the so-called Putrajaya Project is located not far from Kuala Lumpur's new $9-billion international airport.

Builders are rushing to meet the airport's completion deadline in 1998, when Malaysia hosts the Commonwealth games.

Big projects are still the way of the future, the 71-year-old Mahathir recently declared.

Economists say the mega projects will further strain Malaysia's current account deficit, tipped to remain at 15 billion ringgit this year, only a slight improvement from last year's 18 billion ringgit shortfall.

Mahathir sees the projects as necessary to ease bottlenecks and continue attracting inflows of the foreign funds that have helped fuel Malaysia's economic growth, which has stayed above eight percent annually since 1987.

Malaysia, now grappling with rising worker shortage and labor costs, needs at least 450 billion ringgit ($180 billion) to fund projects and sustain its robust growth for the next five years. (AFP)



Chicago, IL, United States (July 28): The Dalai Lama stands with U.S. actor Richard Gere at the Medinah Temple in Chicago. Gere presented a tribute to His Holiness during the only public talk of the Dalai Lama's U.S. Tour.

(AFP PHOTO)

Earth Core Spinning Faster Than Rest of Planet?

PARIS — The center of the earth, a hard ball of iron crystals 2,400 kilometers (1,500 miles) in diameter, spins faster than the rest of the planet, according to New York researchers whose study has just been published in the latest issue of the British magazine *Nature*.

If the results are confirmed, they could upset conceptions about the earth's dynamics and the origin of its magnetic field, which is generated by this hard core.

Xiaodong Song and Paul Richards of Columbia University say that since the beginning of the century, the iron core has been performing a quarter of a revolution further to the east in relation to the rest of the planet.

In other words, according to this calculation, it shifts its position at a relative speed of 20 kilometers (12 miles) a year at approximately the level of its own equator.

The two boffins, analyzing recordings of seismic waves which have moved through the earth from north to south in the last 30 years, stumbled on a curious discovery about two earthquakes, in 1967 and 1995, both in the South Sandwich Islands between Latin America and the Antarctic.

They noticed that it took waves from the 1995 quake a third of a second less than those from the 1967 tremor to reach a geological research station in Alaska.

The two scientists say the waves travel faster nowadays because the so-called "anisotropic axis" of the earth's core, which serves as a kind of "fast lane" for the waves, turns annually at a rate of 1.1 degrees towards the east in relation to the rest of the planet.

In the course of 30 years this "fast lane", probably consisting of iron crystals which boost wave propagation, had approached the path taken by the waves from the South Sandwich Islands, thus permitting them to travel through the planet more quickly.

The anisotropic axis is currently inclined at an angle of ten degrees to the earth's rotation axis. The New York scientists say the movement of this axis provides proof that the earth's core rotates faster than the rest of the planet.

The study corroborates a three-dimensional numerical model of the earth's dynamics published last year by geophysicists Garry Glatzmaier and Paul Roberts of the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA).

Some scientists doubt the latest findings, however, even although it makes sense to suppose that this solid core, bathed in a liquid mass, can turn freely. The earth is made up of the hard core, a liquid core surrounding it, and the surface crust.

French scientist Dominique Jault, a researcher in the Geomagnetism Department of the Global Physics Institute in Paris, told AFP: "These results would suggest that the solid core spins about ten times faster than the liquid surrounding it, which is theoretically impossible. Electrical currents generated around the solid core would prevent such rapid rotation."

(AFP)

NEC Vows to Fight Cray's Dumping Charge

TOKYO — Japan's NEC Corp. said Tuesday a dumping charge filed against it by U.S. computer maker Crayresearch Inc. over a supercomputer sale to a U.S. agency was a "completely false accusation" and "totally groundless."

"If Cray files a dumping complaint, we will firmly respond to this and assert our company's legitimacy in line with the rules," NEC's senior managing director Masao Toka said in a statement.

Cray on Monday filed an anti-dumping petition with the Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission, charging that NEC was taking an estimated $65 million loss to supply four supercomputers to the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) at a below production cost.

Cray also said the proposed price is significantly less than what NEC charges in Japan.

Toka said Cray's move to "twist international procurement rules that should be fair and nondiscriminatory ... is highly regrettable."

Cray's cost calculation is "extremely hard to understand," he added.

Pointing out that the U.S. government has not procured Japanese-made supercomputers before, Toka said Cray's dumping charge was "nothing but an attempt to keep Japanese companies out of the U.S. government procurement market."

The atmospheric research agency tentatively agreed in May to buy four NEC supercomputer systems as part of a five-year, $35.25 million contract.

The National Science Foundation, the primary funding agency for the NCAR, has said the acquisition of the NEC computers is

(Contd on Pg.14)

Kazakh Authorities Fear Tuberculosis Epidemic

ALMATY — Authorities in Kazakhstan fear an epidemic of tuberculosis after the release of 56,000 prisoners, at least one in eight of whom have the disease, according to the Health Ministry.

The prisoners were amnestied last month to mark the first anniversary of the former Soviet Republic's new constitution.

The Health Ministry said Monday it would be impossible to treat all those suffering from the disease, due to a shortage of funds and hospital beds.

"Out of 76,000 prisoners held in Kazakh jails, 16,364 have tuberculosis," said Interior Ministry spokesman Ivan Girin.

Many prisoners will die, lung specialists in Almaty said, adding that they feared "an epidemic of tuberculosis spread by prisoners who have just been freed."

The prison authorities said some $80 million would be needed to treat prisoners stricken with the disease.

In 1995, a total of 1,273 prisoners died of tuberculosis in the Central Asian Republic, and 569 deaths were recorded in the first five months of this year, according to official figures.

Some 60,000 patients with advanced tuberculosis are being treated in Kazakhstan, where on average 3,000 people die of the disease and 11,000 are infected every year.

(AFP)

Dinosaur Stamping Ground Found

GENEVA — More than 1,500 dinosaur footprints have been discovered in the Jura Mountains of northern Switzerland, paleontologist Martin Lockley said Monday.

The site, "one of the largest and densest in Europe," was discovered near Moutier by a team headed by the Swiss Christian Meyer, Lockley said.

The prints, of which 300 are clearly visible, are set in a sheet of chalky rock of 60,000 square feet believed to be about 150 million years old.

Ranging in length from 60 centimeters (two feet) to 1.4 meters (five feet), they mark the traces of a group of brontosauruses, a grass-eating dinosaur that could grow up to 35 meters (120 feet) in length.

Dinosaur remains were first found in the region in 1870, but the first footprints were found only in 1994. (AFP)

Ceausescu's Orphans

tomania's last dictator left behind a society mable and unwilling to take care of its children



DENIZENS OF THE STREET: Alina, left, and her friend Cesar above heir home in Bucharest

On the day after her 16th birthday, Alina Sofronia awakes amid a clutter of blankets, old shoes, sodden cardboard and empty bottles in a gloomy concrete cubicle beneath the park in front of Bucharest's Gara du Nord railway station. She pulls on soiled jeans, oversize boots and a grimy sweatshirt reading YES on the front and No on the back. Rats and cockroaches scurry under two massive heating pipes occupying most of the space. The humid air reeks of urine and of glue fumes from the plastic bag Alina clutches in her right hand. Bringing the bag to her mouth, she blows into it, filling it like a balloon. She inhales deeply, slumps motionless for a long moment, then clumsily ties the top of the bag, puts it in her pocket and slowly climbs a steel ladder to the sunlight above.

Alina is among the hundreds of children who shelter in the underground labyrinth of pipes stretching out under the city from beneath the station. Thousands more populate parks and abandoned buildings in Bucharest and other Romanian cities, living their life at the very bottom of a society infamous for the dismal state of its child care. Most come from broken homes, telling tales of sexual and physical abuse by alcoholic parents or older siblings. Others come from the country's overcrowded orphanages or from Romanian hospitals where they had been abandoned by relatives -- many because they were found to be HIV positive.

AIDS is just one of many scourges threatening the street children. Hepatitis B is common, as is tuberculosis. Most of those who want to find a job or decent living quarters cannot do so because they lack identification papers -- impossibly difficult to obtain from a government bureaucracy that treats them as nonpersons. After Romania's communist government fell in December 1989, the world was shocked by the appalling orphanages in which babies and youngsters were packed. Most went unrescued. Now some of Romania's abandoned are children of the sewers.

The progenitor of this misery was dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who in the 1960s aggressively promoted population growth, banning contraception and abortions for women with fewer than four children, despite the wretched poverty of most families. His overthrow and execution did not solve the problems he had created. Romania has 3,279 victims of pediatric AIDS -- more than half the total number of cases in Europe. The government of President Ion Iliescu, former propaganda minister for Ceausescu, has launched programs to ease the situation, but intransigent ministries and local officials block the initiatives and exacerbate matters with the heavy-handed communist techniques to which they cling.

Oblivious to the causes of her plight, Alina sits at the edge of the entrance to her hole, staring dully at the Gara du Nord passersby. A few, noticing her, shake their head and move on. She is joined by a man named Valentin who, though 20, is so short and pale he looks to be no older than she. Seeing that she is too intoxicated to speak, he sits on a nearby bench and begins working his own bag of glue -- a common pastime among Romanian street urchins. "I have dreams when I sniff glue," he says, smiling to reveal a thin extra tooth between two front incisors. "I dream I am floating up in the middle of the stars and the moon, and then I am chasing the stars."

Alina's parents died when she was six. She was sent to a Bucharest orphanage, where she was so disobedient that she was expelled at age 14. Her brother, also expelled from an orphanage, was living at the Gara du Nord, and she joined him there but was immediately claimed by a man named Suraj. "He takes small kids from the station and then they work for him," says Valentin. When asked how Suraj treated her, Alina stares glassily and says, "A little bit of everything." Last winter she made her way into Valentin's group of half a dozen children, a relatively safe refuge, say social workers for Romanian Save the Children, a private organization. Valentin earns a little food money by sweeping in front of kiosks and selling newspapers and magazines. One of seven children, he was cut loose after his alcoholic parents split. He wound up at the station when he was 14. He looks after the younger residents, the social workers say -- the closest thing to parental guidance they can get.

The government does little to help and often gets in the way. When the charitable organization Concordia set up a shelter and soup kitchen in an abandoned cargo area of the Gara du Nord, Health Ministry inspectors ordered it closed on the ground that the air was inadequate. They apparently did not sniff the urine stench of the youngsters' alternative dwelling. "We tried to do something for the children," says Thomas Preindle, an Austrian social worker for Con-Cordia. "But the authorities didn't want it."

A visitor asks what they want from life. "First I want papers," says Valentin. "Then maybe a job. If I find a job, then I want to find an apartment." And Alina? She shrugs, shakes her head and says, "I want to die." She smiles slightly and sings a soft and childlike tune to fill the silence. She leans forward, coughs and says, "It's just like that."

(Courtesy Time)



AIRY DREAMS: An 11-year-old girl sniffs glue, a habit that harms the brain, lungs and liver

SUBTERRANEAN CELL: Valentin rests on a heating pipe in his fetid underground world



UN Preparing for Up to Half a Million Burundian Refugees

GENEVA -- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is preparing for up to half a million Burundian refugees fleeing to neighboring countries after last week's military coup, a spokesman said Monday.

"We are planning for 500,000 refugees, but it doesn't mean we are expecting them. Our planning is very flexible," said Augustine Mahiga, the commission's coordinator for Rwanda and Burundi.

Last week the commission had updated its emergency plan to cope with 300,000 refugees, and asked the international community for $13 million to deal with a possible humanitarian crisis in Burundi.

Martin Griffith, director of the United Nations' Department of Humanitarian Affairs, said a mission has been sent to the Kenyan capital Nairobi and to Burundi to determine whether to reinforce coordination of the agencies on the ground.

Asked whether the UN representatives would be in contact with the new military-installed government in Burundi, Griffith said: "If there is a need to speak with politicians, the mission will."

A coup backed by the Tutsi-led army on Thursday ousted Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya and replaced him with Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi major who had previously been in power between 1987 and 1993.

A UN spokesman said essential agency staff remain in Burundi, wracked by three years of inter-ethnic violence between Hutus and minority Tutsis that has left tens of thousands dead. *(AFP)*

"Minister" Says Serbs Cannot Be Handed to Court Until After Poll

BELGRADE — Citizens of the Bosnian Serb entity will not be handed over to the UN War Crimes Court in The Hague until after elections in Bosnia later this year, Marko Arsovic, "justice minister" for the Serb Republic said on Sunday.

Quoted here by the official Tanjug news agency, Arsovic said the Serb entity's current constitution "did not authorise" the transfer of its citizens and for that reason the Serbs "will not be able to intervene until the future authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been set up."

"Under the terms of the Dayton accord it will be up to these institutions to settle the question" of the transfer of war crimes suspects to the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Arsovic said.

"That will only be possible after the (September 14) elections," he added.

According to Arsovic, who is to travel to The Hague on Monday, the serb republic "has opted for full cooperation with all the organs of the international community" — including the ICTY.

Arsovic said he would visit the tribunal at the head of a Bosnian Serb delegation on Monday to discuss with the court the Serbs' own complaints against the "military leadership" of the Muslim Croat Federation, the other entity in Bosnia. *(AFP)*

New Relief on Way to Pyongyang

UNITED NATIONS — The first shipload of emergency food aid for North Korea organized after a new UN appeal for flood-related relief is due to arrive in mid-August, the World Food Program (WFP) announced Monday.

The Rome-based UN agency said in a statement released here that some 9,000 tons of rice, funded by Australia, Denmark, Japan, New Zealand and Sweden would be on board the vessel "Chong Chon Gang."

A second shipload of food financed by Washington would arrive in the second half of next month, the WFP said.

The United Nations launched an emergency appeal on June 6 for a total 43.6 million dollars to help North Korea cope with major food shortages and other devastating effects of last year's flooding.

The WFP statement that relief was on its way came as meteorologists in South Korea said that heavy rains over the weekend had pounded the North's western provinces, which have the best farmlands but which have only half recovered from the flooding. *(AFP)*

Mostar Croats Refuse to Bow to International "Blackmail"

MOSTAR, Bosnia-Herzegovina -- Hard-line Croats in this divided city said Monday they will not give in to international "blackmail," just days before an EU deadline for them to end a boycott of the city council expires.

Mile Puljic, head of the local hard-line Bosnian Croat Party which has boycotted the city council over last month's elections which it branded "illegal," said efforts to force Croat compliance amounted to little more than blackmail.

"We can't accept the international blackmail aimed at forcing us to accept a decision which harms the interests of the Croats in Mostar," Mile Puljic told AFP.

In a further sign of Croat defiance, Mijo Brajkovic, mayor of Croat-held West Mostar, said Monday the Croat boycott would continue.

"The Croats elected to the city council would only take part in the sessions of this organ if they were dragged there by force," Brajkovic was quoted by the Bosnian Croat news agency Habena as saying.

The EU, which has run Mostar for two years, has said it will withdraw from the southern city unless the Croats end their boycott of the newly-elected city council by August 4.

The Croats, who lost the June 30 elections to a mainly-Muslim coalition, have refused to participate in the city council over alleged electoral irregularities and have lodged a complaint with the constitutional court of the Muslim-Croat Federation.

One of their complaints, over the voting of Mostar refugees in Bonn, was upheld by the city electoral commission but overturned by the EU ombudsman.

Puljic also aimed a broadside at Michael Steiner, deputy to the high representative to Bosnia, Carl Bildt, as the war of words between international peace implementers and the Bosnian Croats intensified.

"As we refuse to give in, international officials like him devise new ways of shooting poisoned arrows at us," Puljic said.

Steiner said in Sarajevo on Sunday that the international community refused to give in to the Croats' "blackmail."

"If you allow the side that doesn't like the election to practically undo the election and its result then we destroy the very essence of elections," he said.

Earlier, in a letter to steiner, released Monday, Puljic's party, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) said that Bildt's deputy had sold his soul to the devil.

"It is clear that Mr. Steiner has sold his soul to the devil and has proved to the entire world that he stands next to those who want a new war in Bosnia," the letter said.

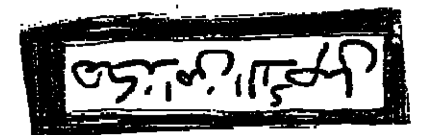
"Mr Steiner is showing signs of exhaustion and those who sent him must ask themselves whether Mr. Steiner still has credit and authority," it said.

Puljic said that "international officials like Steiner want to force the Croat population to leave the city, which would be bitter indeed."

Mostar's Croats fought the Muslims for 11 months in 1993 and 1994, trying to carve out a Croat statelet in Bosnia of which Mostar would be the capital.

The city's elections, the first in Bosnia since the war, were intended to reunite the city, where Muslims control the east and Croats the west.

Zagreb is under pressure to use its influence to end the Croat boycott. On Monday, Mostar's former EU administrator, Hans Koschnick, was quoted as saying that aid for the reconstruction of Croatia should be linked to the end of the boycott. *(AFP)*



Lewis Embraces the Legend

ATLANTA — Carl Lewis sealed his place in sporting legend here Monday with his ninth Olympic gold medal and his fourth consecutive long jump triumph.

The 36-year-old equaled Paavo Nurmi's track and field record of nine titles in the 1920s and like the finish runner his fame will live as long as boys and girls dream of running faster, jumping farther.

After the competition, he was embraced by former American discus star Al Oerter, the only other man to win four Olympic athletics titles in a row.

This was never meant to happen. Lewis, 36, performed so poorly this year he was dismissed as too old, too tired and too stale. He barely made the Olympic team this year, failing for the 200m and 100m and scraping in as the last qualifier for the long jump.

Once here, his efforts in Sunday's qualifiers were poor. He only made it through to the final on his last, desperate jump of 8.29 meters.

In the final his speed, stride length and coordination failed him on the first two jumps. At the top of the third run, the solitary figure in a crowd of 85,000 mumbled to himself, twitched and shrugged, then took off to jump 8.50m.

World champion Ivan Pedroso and Mike Powell, the 1991 and 1993 world number one, could only look on in despair.

The silver went to James Beckford of Jamaica (8.29), who clinched his silver with his last jump while Joe Greene of the United States took the bronze (8.24), just as he had done in Barcelona.

Michael Johnson won the 400 meter but his achievement was overshadowed by the Lewis magic. Johnson diminished it further by unleashing a fit of pique in the continuing saga of bad blood between the two athletes.

Each has been mean about the success of the other and Johnson could not resist a dig.

"If Carl Lewis is still wanting to be the premier athlete of track and field, I think he should step down from that," he said.

"There is room for all of us and there is no point in trying to jockey one or two positions," replied Lewis.

If Johnson wants the spotlight all to himself, he can have it Thursday, if he wins the 200m, achieving a double no man has done before.

In the women's 400m, Marie-Jose Perec retained her title, the first women to do so, in 48.25sec. It was the third fastest time ever and the fastest for a decade.

Australia's impressive Cathy Freeman, who became the fifth fastest woman over one lap in history, chased Perec all the way and was responsible for the fast pace.

Haile Gebreselassie of Ethipia won the men's 10,000m while rank outsider Svetlana Masterkova of Russia was a surprise winner of the 800m.

Allen Johnson of the United States won the 110m hurdles to add Olympic gold to his world title. (AFP)



ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 29): Carl Lewis of the U.S. lands in the sand pit and scores 8.50 meters to win the gold medal in the Olympic long jump at Olympic Stadium in Atlanta. James Beckford of Jamaica won the silver medal and Joe Greene of the U.S. won the bronze medal.

(AFP PHOTO)

Perec the Michael Johnson of Women's Athletics

ATLANTA — Awe-inspiring Marie-Jose Perec, the female version of Michael Johnson, made Olympic history here on Monday by becoming the first athlete ever *to retain the 400m title.*

The French athlete, as dominant as Johnson over the one-lap discipline and who is also expected to double up in the 200m here, produced a regal display to win in a personal best time of 48.25sec, which was also an Olympic record and the fastest time run for 10 years.

Perec thus became the third fastest over the distance in history, and was followed in by Cathy Freeman of Australia (48.63), who became the fifth fastest over the 400m, while Falilat Ogunkoya of Nigeria (49.10) claimed an African record.

Perec, who has often complained of lack of competition and who even suggested in the run-up to the games that Freeman and the rest of her rivals were frightened of her, started cautiously but was perfectly placed coming into the home *straight.*

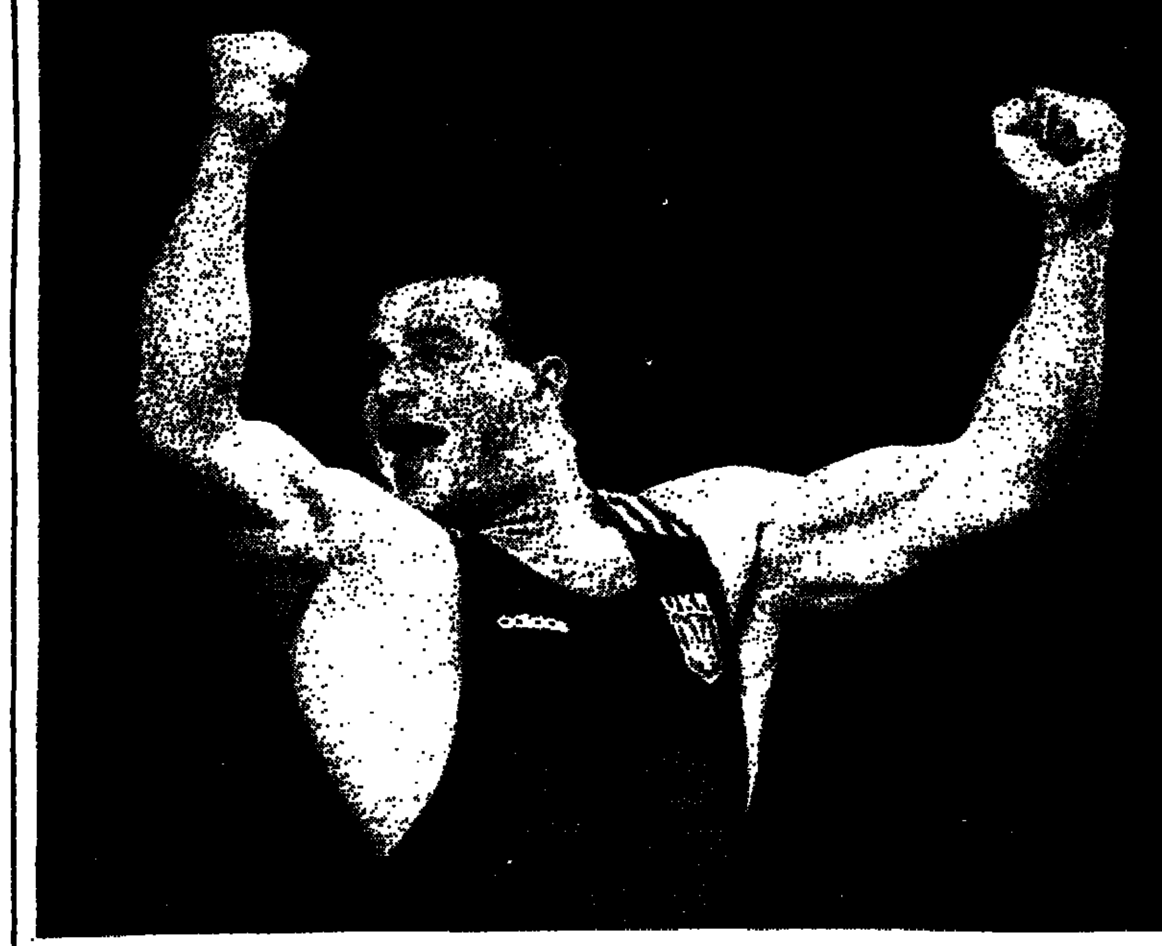
Freeman, the Commonwealth champion over both 200m and 400m, held on gamely but began to overstride in the final 30m as Perec held on to her five-meter lead.

The 28-year-old runner, who is also the reigning world champion, jogged off on a quiet, subdued lap of honor, dragging her national flag along behind her on the floor.

Perec has blossomed into a major force since shifting her base to the United States, where she teamed up with American supercoach John Smith two years ago.

Not only has he convinced her that East German Marita Koch's world record of 47.60sec could be within her grasp — Perec previously suggested the mark was "not human" — but he also persuaded her at the start of the month to attempt the 200m here as well.

(AFP)



ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 29): Timur Taimazov of Ukraine celebrates after breaking the clean and jerk world record with a lift of 236kg to win the 108kg class of the Olympic weightlifting event at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. Taimazov won the gold medal with a total of 430kg (195kg, 235kg). As the bar can only go up by 2.5kg for competition purposes the new mark of 236kg did not count to the total.

(AFP PHOTO)

Nemov Vaults to Gold

ATLANTA — Russia's Alexei Nemov won the gold medal for the vault with a score of 9.787 points in the Olympic gymnastics apparatus finals here on Monday.

South Korea's Yeo Hong-Chul won the silver with 9.756 and Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus took the bronze on 9.724.

Nemov won two bronze medals, in the floor exercises and pommel horse, on Sunday.

(AFP)

Olympic Medals Table

ATLANTA — Medals standings on Monday after 162 events.

	gold	silver	bronze	total
United States	24	28	11	63
Russia	18	13	10	41
France	13	6	12	31
China	10	12	8	30
Germany	10	11	19	40
Italy	10	6	9	25
Australia	7	8	16	31
Poland	6	5	3	14
Ukraine	5	2	5	12
Romania	4	5	6	15
Hungary	4	3	5	12
Greece	4	3	0	7
Cuba	3	5	7	15
South Korea	3	5	3	11
Japan	3	4	3	10
New Zealand	3	2	1	6
Ireland	3	0	1	4
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Switzerland	3	0	0	3
Canada	2	6	6	14
Brazil	2	2	4	8
Belgium	2	2	2	6
South Africa	2	0	1	3
Ethiopia	2	0	0	2
Belarus	1	4	7	12
Netherlands	1	3	8	12
Great Britain	1	3	5	9
Kazakhstan	1	3	1	5
Czech Republic	1	2	1	4
Finland	1	2	0	3
Spain	1	1	2	4
North Korea	1	1	1	3
Denmark	1	0	1	2
Slovakia	1	0	1	2
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	2
Armenia	1	0	0	1
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
Syria	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	0	4	4	8
Sweden	0	2	1	3
Jamaica	0	2	0	2
Kenya	0	2	0	2
Austria	0	1	1	2
Norway	0	1	1	2
Argentina	0	1	0	1
Croatia	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Slovenia	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	1	0	1
Georgia	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Mongolia	0	0	1	1
Mozambique	0	0	1	1
Nigeria	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	1	1
Uganda	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1

(AFP)